A SHORT BUT INTENSELY DANGEROUS PERIOD OF TIME.
LOSTO
ロスト
WE HAD INVADED THE DEN OF THE ENEMY AND ESCAPED IN LESS THAN ONE HOUR
CHAPTER 170 6【 IDENTITY 】

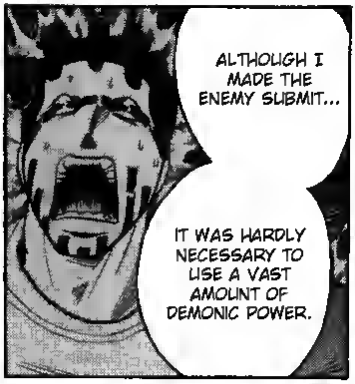
HE DID THIS ON HIS OWN.
NO...
WHO WOULD THINK OF DOING SUCH A THING AT NOON IN A FAMILY RESTAURANT?!!
WOW... DOMINATRIX PLAY AT THAT AGE?

...UM...
I COULD'VE GONE TO TO GET MY DRINK ON MY OWN.
ゆっ
ゆっ

LITTLE GIRL!!

CHAPTER 170 6
【IDENTITY】

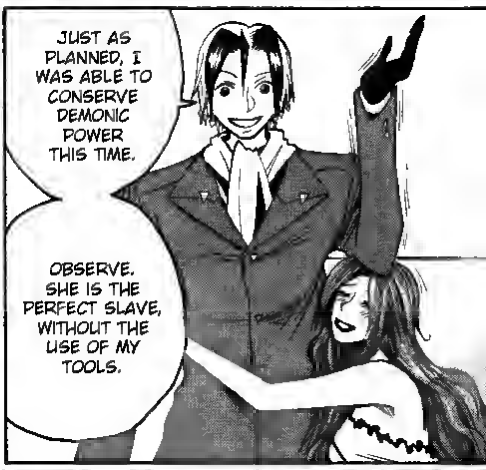
THAT WAS CONTINUING STILL.
I DO NOT DRINK TEA!
OH NO
HOW COULD I MAKE SUCH A MISTAKE?
I REFUSE.
PLEASE, TRAMPLE ME MASTER NEURO!
AN INTENSELY DANGEROUS PERIOD OF TIME...


ALTHOUGH I MADE THE ENEMY SUBMIT...
IT WAS HARDLY NECESSARY TO USE A VAST AMOUNT OF DEMONIC POWER.

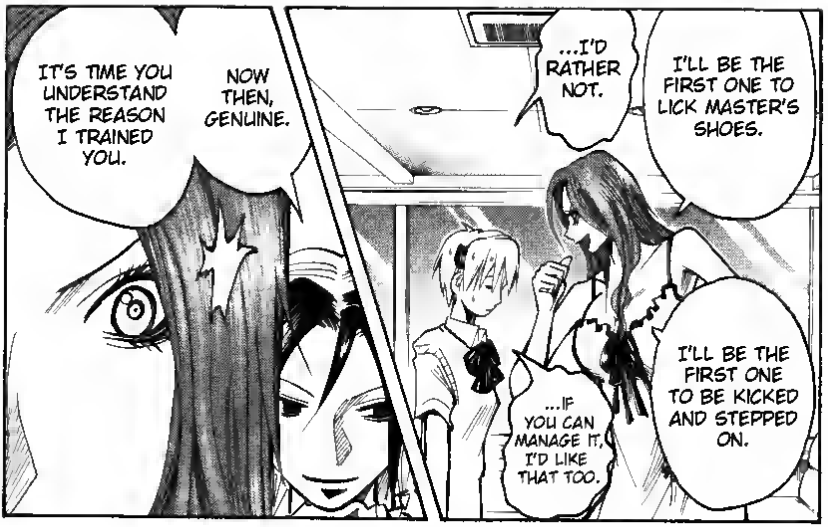
YOU RECALL THE INCIDENT AT THE SPORTS GYM.

WHEN THEY ARE CAREFULLY BROKEN BEFOREHAND...
A LIGHT SHOCK IS MORE THAN SUFFICIENT AFTERWARDS

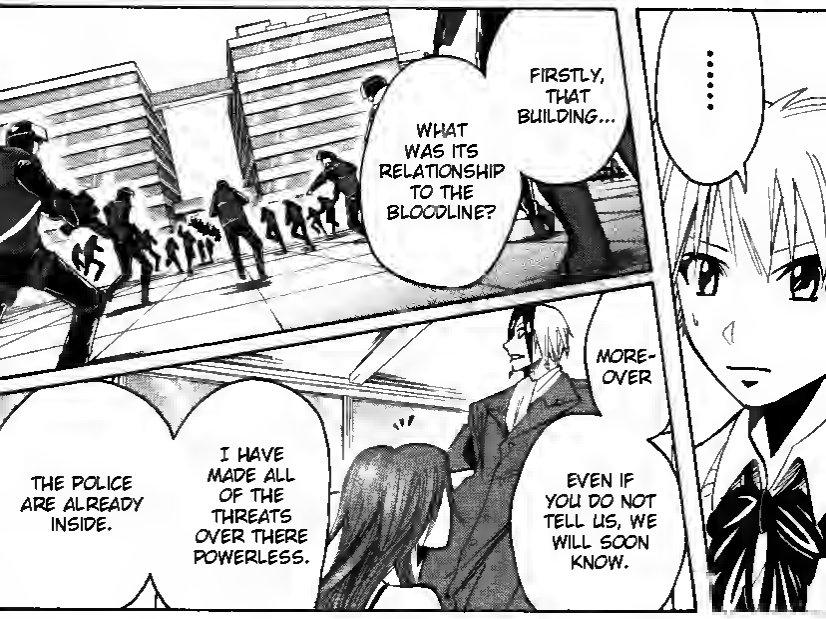
GEEZ, EVEN WHEN A GUY LIKE YOU IS ALWAYS...
IT'S PATHETIC HOW NICE YOU'RE TREATING HER.


JUST AS PLANNED, I WAS ABLE TO CONSERVE DEMONIC POWER THIS TIME.
OBSERVE. SHE IS THE PERFECT SLAVE, WITHOUT THE USE OF MY TOOLS.

LET ME TELL YOU...
THE ONLY ONE I'M SUBMITTING TO IS MASTER NEURO.
WE MAY BOTH BE SLAVES, BUT I'M A CLASS ABOVE YOU.
GYAAAAAAAAA OWWWWWWWW!!
LITTLE GIRL.
DON'T POINT YOUR FINGER AT MY BELOVED MASTER.
メキ
ナキ
メキ


NOW THEN, GENUINE.
IT'S TIME YOU UNDERSTAND THE REASON I TRAINED YOU.
...I'D RATHER NOT.
I'LL BE THE FIRST ONE TO LICK MASTER'S SHOES.
...IF YOU CAN MANAGE IT, I'D LIKE THAT TOO.
I'LL BE THE FIRST ONE TO BE KICKED AND STEPPED ON.

ABOUT EVERYTHING YOU KNOW AS ONE OF THE "NEW BLOODLINE."
TO MAKE YOU TALK
.....
YES, MASTER NEURO.


FIRSTLY, THAT BUILDING...
WHAT WAS ITS RELATIONSHIP TO THE BLOODLINE?
.....
MORE-OVER
EVEN IF YOU DO NOT TELL US, WE WILL SOON KNOW.
I HAVE MADE ALL OF THE THREATS OVER THERE POWERLESS.
THE POLICE ARE ALREADY INSIDE.

I CAN GET THAT INFORMATION FROM THE POLICE, BUT
HMPH.
IF I DO THAT, WHAT USE ARE YOU TO ME AS A SLAVE.
AAAAAH, I'LL TALK, MASTER NEURO!!
CAN'T WE AT LEAST DO IT SOMEWHERE WHERE THERE AREN'T SO MANY PEOPLE...
YOU GUYS MIGHT JUST BE GETTING ALONG TOO WELL...
.....
.....
WHAT IS THIS?

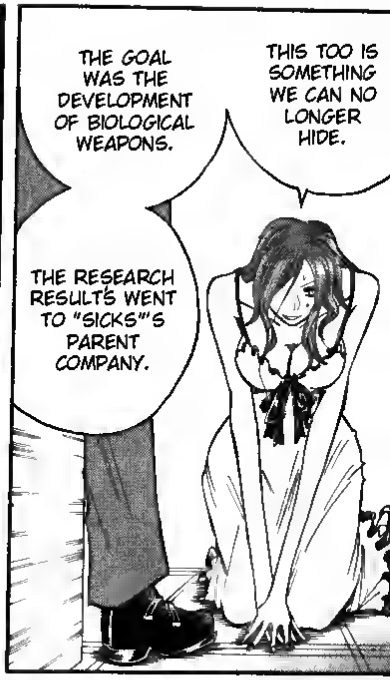
WHEN WE GOT TOGETHER A NUMBER OF PERSONNEL AND CHARGED IN...
WHAT WENT ON HERE?
SURELY THESE PEOPLE THAT LOOK LIKE THEY WERE GOING TO PUT UP SOME RESISTANCE DIDN'T JUST FALL OVER?
IS HE ONE OF THESE?
...THAT HUGE MAN YOU SPOKE OF...
.....
MAYBE.
MGAH
MAYBE THAT INVESTIG...
OH!
WE PROBABLY SHOULDN'T SAY ANY MORE THAN WE HAVE TO UNTIL WE GET THE DETAILS.
SINCE THEY'RE ON GOOD TERMS WITH SEMPAI...
THEY'RE NOT WITHIN OUR JURISDICTION.
I'M SURE THEY SAVED US BUT...

TOP SECRET.
THERE'S MORE SECURITY THAN THEY WOULD RATIONALLY NEED HERE.
WHAT SASAZUKA SAID IS TRUE, ISN'T IT.
...LOOKS THAT WAY.
INFORMATION CONCERNING THE CORE OF "THEIR" OPERATION...
MIGHT BE HERE.
...THIS
WILL BE OUR GREATEST TURNING POINT.
ズイイイ

WHAT THE HELL.
.....
.....
...WHA...
PURCHASED A TINY PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANY IN THIS COUNTRY
AND THEN, "SICKS"
OUR BLOODLINE'S BIOLOGICAL TECHNIQUES LEAPT FORWARD.
WITH THE ADDITION OF VIJAYA, OUR DRUG SPECIALIST...
AND HAD A RESEARCH FACILITY BUILT ON THIS LAND.

OVERSTEPPING NATIONAL BOUNDARIES, USED MATERIALS SCRAPED TOGETHER...
IT WAS A PLACE OF HUMAN EXPERIMENTATION ON A SCALE NEVER SEEN BEFORE.
BOTH INSIDE AND OUTSIDE OF THIS COUNTRY
THAT FACILITY ...
DEAD
DEAD
DEAD
DEAD
MUTATI
DEAD

HE IS BEING GIVEN TECHNIQUES TO MAKE WEAPONS FROM EVERY FIELD.
TO HIM, FROM THE WHOLE WORLD...


THE GOAL WAS THE DEVELOPMENT OF BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS.
THIS TOO IS SOMETHING WE CAN NO LONGER HIDE.
THE RESEARCH RESULTS WENT TO "SICKS"'S PARENT COMPANY.

THE IDENTITY OF "SICKS", ENGULFED IN DARKNESS
WAS BECOMING CLEAR.
BEGAN SEVEN THOUSAND YEARS AGO BY MAKING THE FIRST SWING OF A SWORD.
THE ROOT OF THE "NEW BLOODLINE"
HIS DIRECT ANCESTORS

THE LONG YEARS AND MONTHS WENT TOWARD A WEAPONS MANUFACTURER THAT FORGED THE SWORD OF ONE MAN
ORTHOGENETIC EVOLUTION.
UNTIL HE HAD EVOLVED ENOUGH TO COMMAND THE FINEST MUNITIONS INDUSTRY IN THE WORLD.
THE GOAL THIS TIME IS NEGOTIATION.
...NO.

SINCE THE ABOVE-GROUND PART OF THE BUSINESS HAS TO PROSPER TOO, YES?
IN ASIA TOO...
WE HAVE A LOT OF VALUED CUSTOMERS, DON'T WE.

ISN'T IT FAIRLY DANGEROUS...
FOR YOU TO BE COMING TO THIS COUNTRY RIGHT NOW?

B-
BUT SURELY YOU KNOW.
GENUINE WAS DEFEATED AND ABDUCTED
AND THERE'S HEAPS OF PROBLEMS THE WAY THINGS ARE NOW.

I DON'T CARE.
NONE OF THEM ARE MAJOR PROBLEMS.

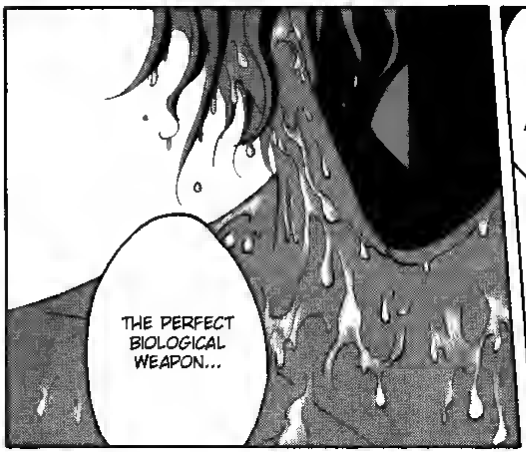
EVEN FROM THE "FIVE FINGERS", FOUR WERE BROKEN AND I'M THE ONLY ONE LEFT.
...BUT
IF SOMETHING WERE TO HAPPEN TO YOU, I'D BE ALONE AND...
.....!!
SILENCE...
YOU UNDER-STAND WHAT I MEAN, THEN
I LIKE THE WAY YOU PUT THAT, KASAI.

XI

IS...

X COMING TOO, THEN?

.....



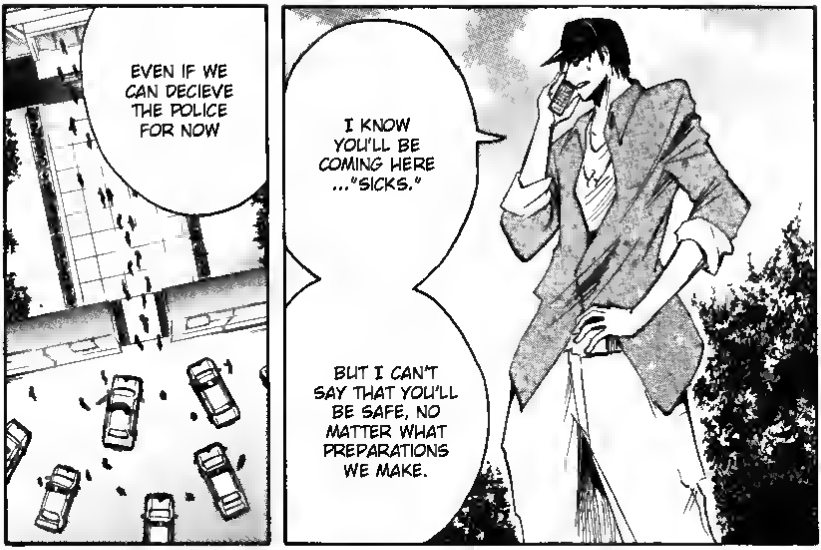
THE FRUIT OF BIOLOGICAL TECHNIQUES THAT WERE DEVELOPED AT THAT RESEARCH FACILITY.
OVER THE MONTHS AND YEARS OF THE ALL SEVENTEEN YEARS, IT HAS CONTINUED SELF-EVOLUTION AS MY CLONE.
ギリ

XI

THIS MIRROR MADE UP OF "SICKS."

MONSTER ROBBER XI...
LEAVE BEHIND THAT HACKNEYED NAME THAT THEY GAVE YOU.
LET'S RENAME YOU.
YOUR NAME IS XI. (ELEVEN)

WHEN SUCH THINGS ARE SPOKEN, THEY ARE NOT SO EASILY HEARD.
A MERCHANT OF DEATH...
CONSIDERING THAT HE HAS GATHERED ALL THAT WISDOM IN HIS HANDS, HE IS ALMIGHTY...
MASTER
CHATER 171 主
【GENUINE】
INVINCIBLE.
BUT HIS CUTTING-EDGE WEAPONS ARE...
ELECT-RONICS
I.T.
BIO-LOGICAL.
AN ASSEMBLAGE OF THE WHOLE WORLD'S KNOWLEDGE.


EVEN IF WE CAN DECIEVE THE POLICE FOR NOW
I KNOW YOU'LL BE COMING HERE ..."SICKS."
BUT I CAN'T SAY THAT YOU'LL BE SAFE, NO MATTER WHAT PREPARATIONS WE MAKE.

GENUINE, WHO HAD ALL HER RESOURCES STRIPPED FROM HER...
WHAT'S FRIGHTENING IS THE POWER OF NEURO'S TORTURES.
PROBABLY CAN'T WITHSTAND IT AND IS COUGHING UP VITAL INFORMATION.

FROM HERE ON IS THE MOST IMPORTANT POINT.
THE LOCATION OF "SICKS"'S LAIR.
I HAVE OBTAINED THAT MUCH ABOUT THE BACKGROUND OF "SICKS."
NOW THEN, THE NEXT QUESTION.
IF WE KNOW THOSE, HE IS AS GOOD AS CAUGHT.
AND THEN, AFTER THAT, THE PLACES HE HIDES.
THE PLACE HE IS AT RIGHT NOW.
NOW THEN
OPEN THAT MOUTH JUST A LITTLE MORE...

IT'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR HER TO BETRAY ME.
I TOLD YOU IT SHOULDN'T BE A PROBLEM, KASAI.
I AM HER ONLY...
"GENUINE" ONE.
FROM THE DAY WE FIRST MET

THAT WAS WHEN
THE "AIR" THAT HAD FADED FROM HER
DREW TIGHT AROUND HER ONCE MORE.
HARSH AND SWEET
DREW ME TOWARDS HIM.
...THE WORDS HE BREATHED...

I HAVE PREPARED THE GREATEST STAGE...
ブス
ブス
ブス
JUST FOR YOU.
COME.
IT'S READY.

THAT APPEAL THAT CONTROLS TEN THOUSAND GUESTS FROM ONSTAGE
IS TRULY A SUITABLE POWER FOR MY BLOODLINE.
ONE GUEST WHO WILL NEVER BE SATISFIED BY THE WORLD OF FICTION...
BUT THE MOST IMPORTANT PART, THE STAGE, JUST WON'T DO
A FALSE STAGE PROP.
IS HERE BEFORE YOU.
A FALSE SPEECH.
カッ
カッ

THE STAGE THAT WILL SATISFY ME IS...
NONE OTHER THAN A GENUINE ONE.
ONLY ONE THING WAS REPLACED WITH THE GENUINE ARTICLE.
BECAUSE IT'S A STAGE FULL OF FAKES...
シャッ
I HAVE SET UP NOT ONLY THE SAME ACTORS BUT ALSO HAVE THEM IN THE SAME PLACES.
IT'S A STAGE THAT YOU PERFORMED ON UNTIL YESTERDAY.

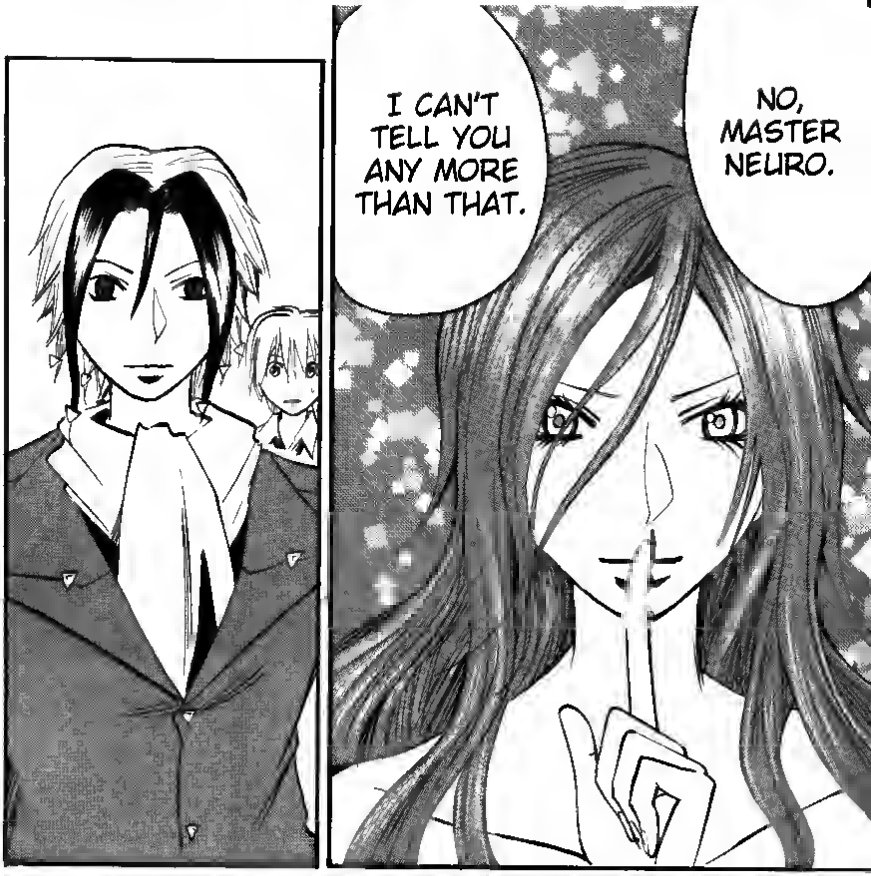
OH NO, WE SEEM TO BE DOWN ONE PERSON
KASAI, FIND A REPLACEMENT.
ドサッ
YEAH.
WITHOUT A DOUBT. IT'S THE GENUINE ARTICLE.
DON'T WORRY.
IF YOU'RE LUCKY, YOU'LL BE SPARED.
ズ
YOUR CHANCES OF DYING ARE LOWER AGAINST A SABER.
ニヤッ
AS YOU SAW FROM THE GUY WHO DISOBEYED BEFORE...
BE SURE TO PLAY YOUR ROLE WELL.
IF THAT BOMB AROUND YOUR NECK GOES OFF, YOU'LL DIE RIGHT AWAY.

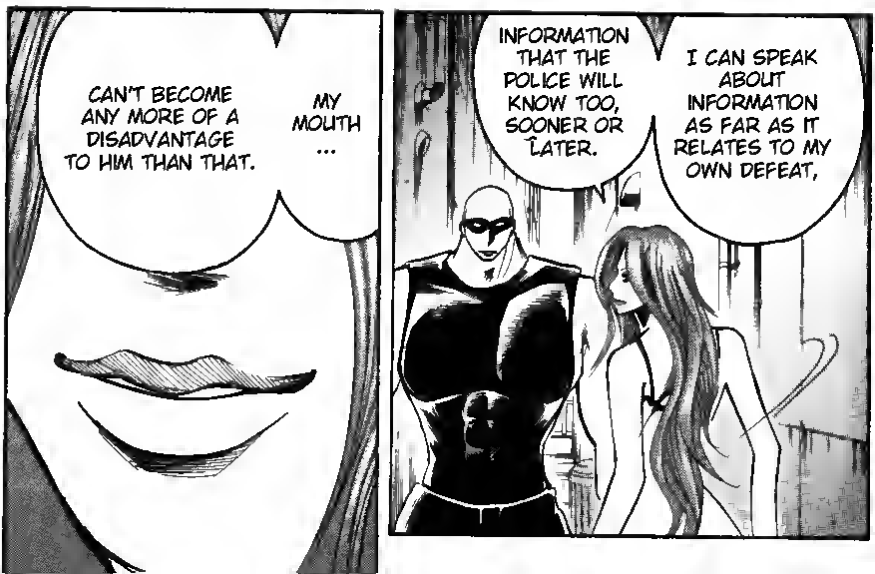
PLAY YOUR PART.
A WIDOW CRAZED WITH REVENGE, MASSACRES THE LADIES AND GENTLEMEN WHO HAD GATHERED FOR THE BALL.
THE SCENE IS...
INSTEAD, THE PLEASURE OF BEING CONTROLLED...
BY A GUEST WHO WAS DOING THE CONTROLLING.
THE FIRST GENUINE GUEST I HAD MET.

SURELY YOU AREN'T REALLY GOING TO...
WAIT, JENNIFER.
THE FIRST TIME I HAD BEEN GIVEN A GENUINE STAGE.
AND
AS I'M SURE HE'D EXPECTED.
IT WAS FINE.

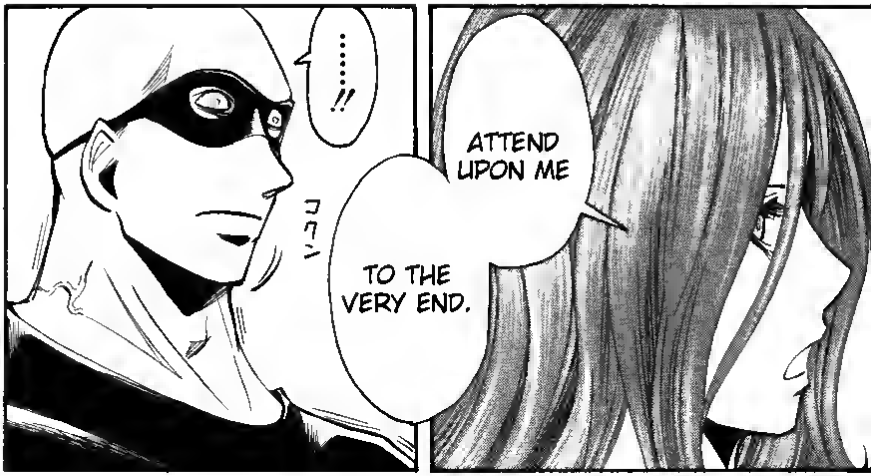
THE ONE WE CONTROL AND MASSACRE ON ISN'T A FALSE STAGE.
INSTEAD OF HUMANS, THE NEW BLOODLINE WILL BE THE PINNACLE OF THE ECOSYSTEM.
IT'S THE REAL WORLD.
FOR THAT, GRANT ME YOUR POWER.

THERE
CONTROL THE HUMANS
AND BE CONTROLLED BY ME
I PREPARED THE STAGE FOR YOU
RISK YOUR LIFE TO SATISFY ME.
YOUR
GENUINE
ONLY GENUINE GUEST.


NO, MASTER NEURO.
I CAN'T TELL YOU ANY MORE THAN THAT.


I CAN SPEAK ABOUT INFORMATION AS FAR AS IT RELATES TO MY OWN DEFEAT,
INFORMATION THAT THE POLICE WILL KNOW TOO, SOONER OR LATER.
MY MOUTH ...
CAN'T BECOME ANY MORE OF A DISADVANTAGE TO HIM THAN THAT.

...COME, ARAN.
WHY ARE YOU SURPRISED?
I REMEMBER THE NAMES OF ALL MY MANSERVANTS.
DESPITE THAT, NOT LEAVING YOU BEHIND AND MAKING YOU HAPPY TO SERVE IS A MASTER'S DUTY.
YOU WERE USELESS, ON TOP OF BETRAYING ME, BUT...
YOU ARE WONDERFUL, MASTER NEURO ....BUT
DOESN'T EXIST IN THE WORLD
SOMEONE WHO COULD GIVE ME A STAGE MORE THRILLING THAN HIM...


……!!
コクン
ATTEND UPON ME
TO THE VERY END.

CAN YOU REALLY BEAR
LOSING WHAT'S IMPORTANT TO YOU?

LITTLE GIRL.
ARE YOU READY?

IF YOU GET ANY CLOSER TO HIM THAN THIS...
KA-CHUNK
AN EVEN GREATER NUMBER OF HUMANS WILL BE SACRIFICED.

……

FAREWELL, MASTER NEURO.
IF I HAD MET YOU FIRST...
I MIGHT HAVE BEEN YOUR PRISONER.

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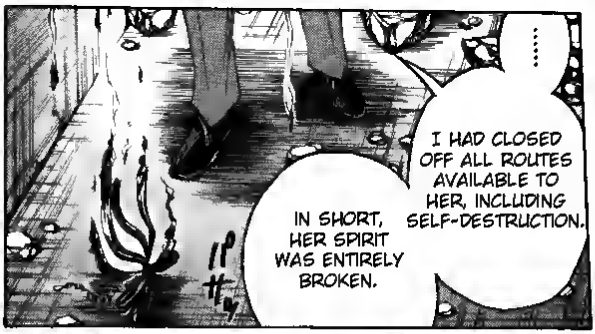
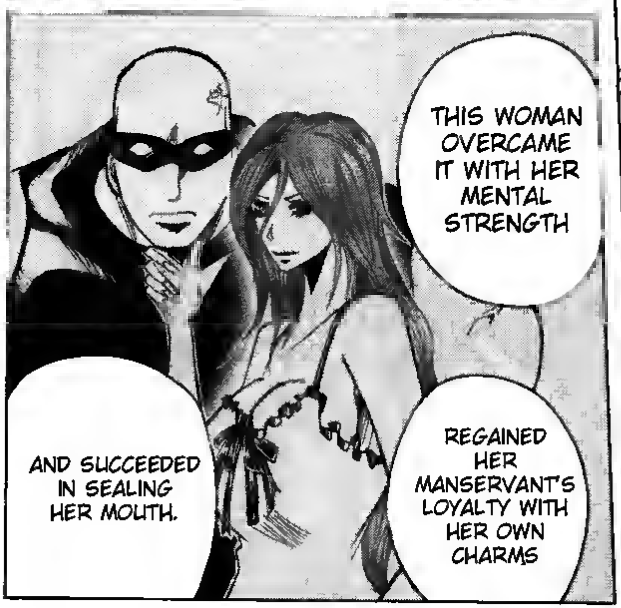
プス
プス
……!!!


……
I HAD CLOSED OFF ALL ROUTES AVAILABLE TO HER, INCLUDING SELF-DESTRUCTION.
IN SHORT, HER SPIRIT WAS ENTIRELY BROKEN.

OUT OF WHAT HAD HAPPENED SO FAR...
I HAD THOUGHT THAT SHE'D BEEN THE MOST EASILY DEFEATED OF THE BLOODLINE BY NEURO.
!


THIS WOMAN OVERCAME IT WITH HER MENTAL STRENGTH
REGAINED HER MANSERVANT'S LOYALTY WITH HER OWN CHARMS
AND SUCCEEDED IN SEALING HER MOUTH.

HAD THE MOST STUNNING VICTORY AGAINST ME.
WHAT AN ACCOMP-LISHMENT.
AMONG THE BLOODLINE, THIS WOMAN...
INSTEAD, SHE HAD SHOWN US THE STRENGTH OF THE BLOODLINE.
TRUE FEAR.
AND I THEN REALIZED IN AN INSTANT...

GENUINE

BIRTHDATE: JUNE 18
AGE: 51
HEIGHT: 177 CM
WEIGHT: 60 KG
SPECIAL SKILLS: INSTIGATION, TRAINING, FIRST-CLASS WITH A WHIP
FINAL MASTER: "SICKS"
SECRET TO HER MARVELOUS YOUTH: SHAMELESS EROTICISM

COME ON THE GROUP BLIND DATE WITH US, YAKO.
THEY'RE GONNA END UP RUNNING AWAY WITH THE GROUP I'VE GOT SO FAR.
CHAPTER 172 釣【FISHING】

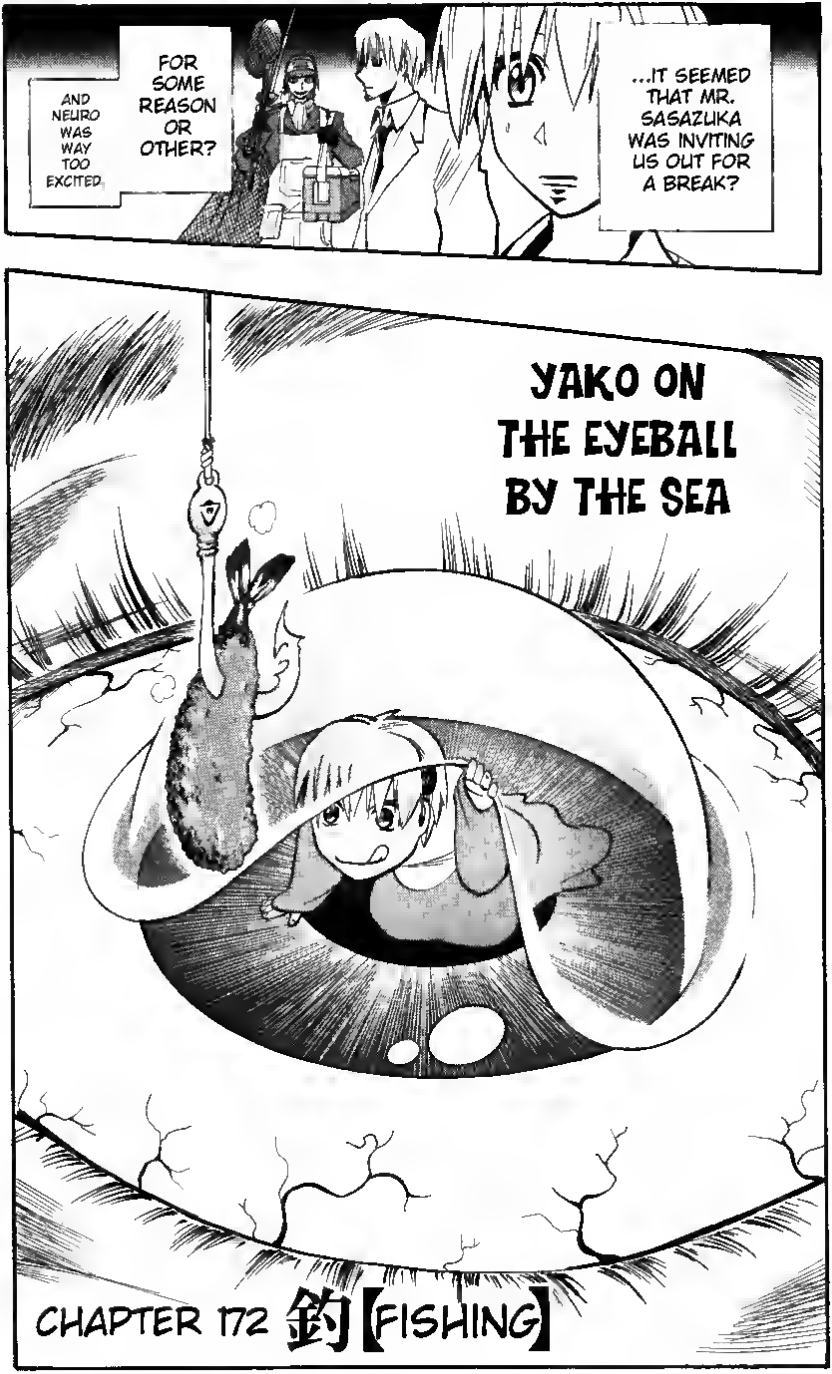
BECAUSE YOU COULD SAY WE'RE GONNA KNOCK 'EM DEAD, GBHA GBHA.
YOU'RE NOT GONNA BE THE HIGHLIGHT OF THE PARTY TONIGHT, KANAE.
...Y, YEAH...
THEY'RE DEFINITELY GOING TO KNOCK 'EM DEAD...

IT'S BEEN BAD LATELY, HUH...
AGAIN?
S-SORRY, I'VE GOT WORK TO DO!

KATSURAG DEMON WORI
HE'S PROBABLY READY AND WAITING TODAY, TOO...

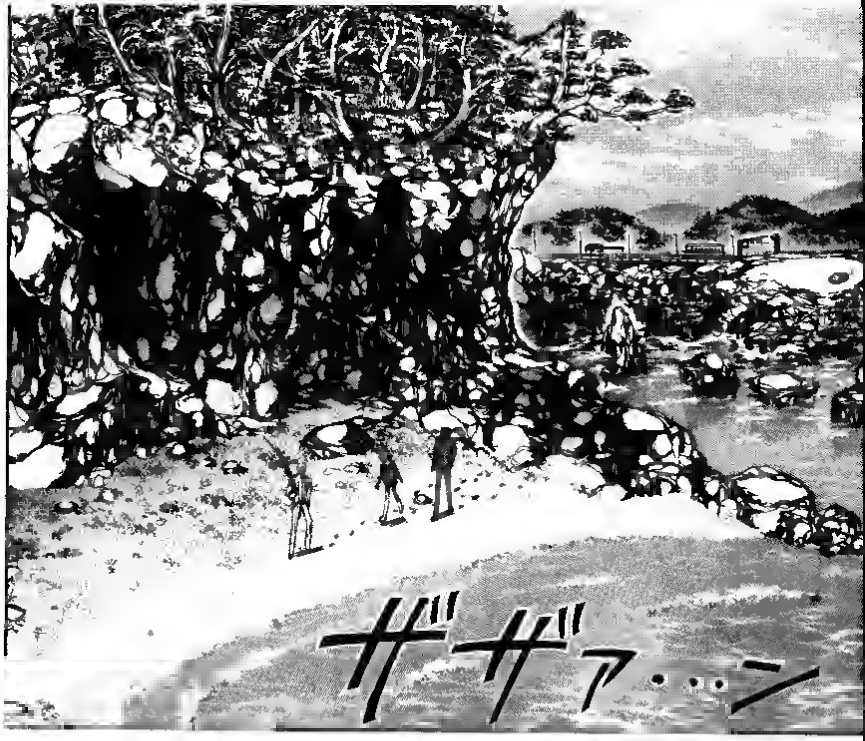
AFTER GETTING THROUGH ONE MOUNTAIN OF A CASE...
NEURO'S GOING TO CONFRONT ME WITH SOMETHING I WON'T LIKE ANYWAY.

YAKO
WANT TO GO FISHING?
fishing madness
NOW, NOW, SENSEI.
HOW COULD YOU POSSIBLY REFUSE DETECTIVE SASAZUKA'S OFFER.
... HUH!?
EVERY TIME, YOU JUST CONFRONT ME WITH SOME TOTALLY RIDICULOUS...
LET'S GO!!
ヒュ〜
OR SHOULD WE...
HANG AROUND THE OFFICE TODAY, TOO?


...IT SEEMED THAT MR. SASAZUKA WAS INVITING US OUT FOR A BREAK?
FOR SOME REASON OR OTHER?
AND NEURO WAS WAY TOO EXCITED.
YAKO ON THE EYEBALL BY THE SEA
CHAPTER 172 釣【FISHING】

ARE YOU FEELING BETTER ALREADY, MR. SASAZUKA?
YOU WERE PRETTY MUCH DONE FOR...
...YEAH, I'M FINE.
USUI GAVE THE TEAM A DAY OFF.
AFTER THIS, THE INVESTIGATION BEGINS IN EARNEST AND WE WON'T GET ANY BREAKS.
Fishing Madness
ONLY I KNOW THE TRUTH ABOUT WHAT'S GOING ON WITH YOU TWO, BUT
IT'S MORE IMPORTANT
THAT YOU DON'T GET HURT.
I HEARD ABOUT MOST OF WHAT WENT ON FROM TODOROKI.
YOU CAME OUT OF THE SHADOWS AND SAVED THEM THIS TIME TOO, DIDN'T YOU?

I THOUGHT I'D SHOW YOU A GOOD PLACE TO GET A BREATH OF FRESH AIR.
AS A WAY OF SAYING THANKS...
SO THAT'S WHAT THIS IS ABOUT.
THUS, FISHING, I SEE!!
SENSEI'S BODY IS PACKED JUST FULL OF AIR, TOO!
モガガ
FISH BAIT
I'M SURE SHE'S JUST SO HAPPY!
IT SEEMS LIKE WE'RE CLOSER THAN WE EVER WERE BEFORE.
...BUT, IT DOES MAKE ME HAPPY.
IT SOUNDS LIKE WE COULD CATCH SOMETHING GOOD.
FISHING...
...HEH HEH HEH.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がんばれ！野球ジャパン
OPEN セール
HE HASN'T CHANGED AT ALL, BUT THERE'S AT LEAST FIVE DIFFERENCES THERE!!
I'M SO REFRESHED THAT I LOOK LIKE A WHOLE DIFFERENT PERSON, DON'T I?
HERE'S PICTURES OF BEFORE AND AFTER I'D BEEN HERE.

I DIDN'T KNOW YOU COULD GET TO A PLACE LIKE THIS IN ONLY AN HOUR!
WOW, IT'S SO PRETTY!!
BACK WHEN I WAS IN UNIVERSITY, I USED TO COME HERE WHEN I WAS STRESSED.

MR. ISHIGAKI, MS. TODOROKI.
OH.
AH!
IT'S YOU!!
SEMPAI!!
YOU'RE LATE!!
LOOK, AS YOU CAN SEE, SHE'S A DIFFERENT PERSON ENTIRELY!
NO.
IN SUCH DIRE STRAITS, YOU MUST HAVE BEEN MISTAKEN!!
YOU...
WERE THERE THAT DAY AT THE PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANY, RIGHT?
I'M SURE I SAW YOU...
.....
I CAN GUARANTEE THEY'RE OUR ALLIES, NOT OUR ENEMIES.
SEMP...
DON'T GO STICKING YOUR NOSE IN, TODOROKI.

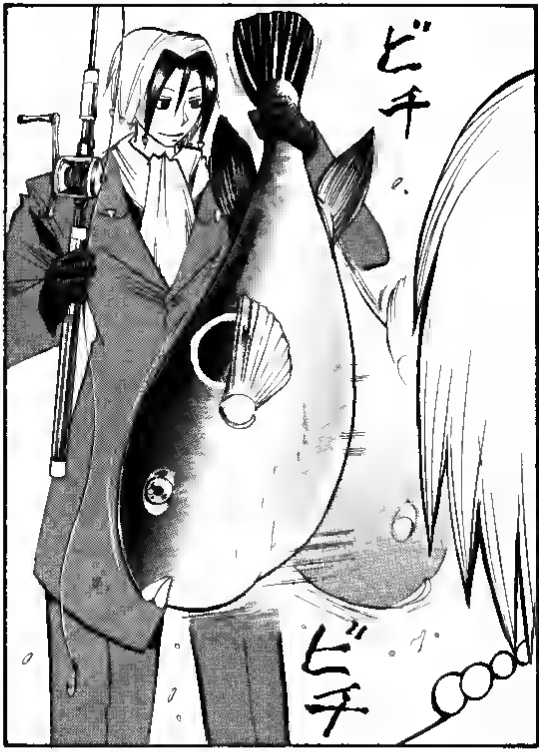
WHEN I WAS LITTLE, DAD BROUGHT ME WITH HIM.
OH, I DID IT ONCE!!
HAVE YOU GOT ANY EXPERIENCE?
SEMPAI ASKED YOU GUYS TO COME FISHING TOO?
TO KNOW THE OCEAN, KNOW THE FISH, KNOW PEOPLE.
WHEN YOU PUT ALL OF THAT KNOWLEDGE TOGETHER .....HERE WE ARE!!
AFTER ALL, FISHING IS THE HOBBY OF REFINED ADULTS.
ARE YOU OKAY, YAKO?
GREENLING 35 CM RECOMMENDED DISH FRIED WITH ANKAKE SAUCE
HA HA HA, LOOK, YAKO!!
IF YOU WAIT FOR A DAY, YOU CAN CATCH SOMETHING LIKE THIS!!

RED SEA BREAM
66 CM
RECOMMENDED DISH:
CARPACCIO SASHIMI
VALUE: THREE TIMES
THAT OF GREENLING
FISHING IS FUN!!
YEAH.
IT SEEMED THAT MY BEGINNER'S LUCK INJURED MY DAD'S PRIDE...
AND HE WENT HOME WHILE I WAS EATING THE SNAPPER I CAUGHT
EVEN THOUGH IT WAS A FLUKE THAT I CAUGHT IT...
.....

AH, BUT I HAVE ONE SUGGESTION.
ゴス
AT ANY RATE, IF YOU'VE GOT EXPERIENCE THERE'S NOT MUCH TO SAY.
EVERYTHING'S READY.
JUST GIVE IT A TRY.
SURE!!
WHY NOT MAKE AN ORDINARY GAME OF IT?
"WHOEVER CATCHES THE BIGGEST ONE CAN ORDER THE PERSON WHO CATCHES THE SMALLEST ONE TO DO WHATEVER THEY WANT."
OH, THAT SOUNDS FUN.
LET'S DO IT!!
!?

OOOOOKAY, THEN LET THE FISHING COMPETITION BEGIN!!
I'LL PLAY THE GAME WITH THE FISHING IMPLEMENTS OF EARTH.
OF COURSE NOT!
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO GET UP TO ANY TRICKS ARE YOU?
...WELL, OKAY, BUT
?
PEOPLE AND FISH ARE COMPLETELY DIFFERENT THINGS.
AS USUAL, IT'S A PLOT TO TURN ME INTO A SLAVE, BUT...
NO MATTER HOW MUCH A PERSON LIKE YOU THINKS THAT THEY SHOULD BE ABLE TO CATCH A REALLY GREAT ONE, THEY...
IS IT?
...IT'S A PRETTY SIMPLE PLAN YOU CAME UP WITH THIS TIME, NEURO.

FUGU
95 CM
RECOMMENDED DISH:
POISON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DID YOU THINK IT WOULD TAKE ME VERY LONG...
IN A BATTLE OF WITS?

JUST AS YOUR FATHER SAID TOO...
THIS IS A BATTLE OF WITS BETWEEN FISH AND MAN.

WHOA, THAT WAS FAST!!
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN A FUGU THIS BIG!!
プク

HM.
I HAVE TAKEN THAT INTO ACCOUNT TOO.
SO WHAT, IT'S NOT LIKE I HAVE TO COME IN LAST!!
IF ANOTHER PERSON COMES IN LAST, YOU'RE GOING TO BE BORED, NOW AREN'T YOU!?
S...
LOOKS GOOD, DOESN'T IT.
IT'S THE SEASON FOR PLUMP SEA BASS.
SEA BASS
105 CM
RECOMMENDED DISH:
SAUTEED OR BROILED
IT SEEMS I'M IN THE CLEAR.
I CAUGHT ONE, YAKO.
RECOMMENDED DISHES: BROILED
NEURO PACKED A SET OF COOKING UTENSILS.
I'LL COOK IT UP FOR YOU RIGHT NOW.
LIGHTLY ROASTED
SAUTEED
GRILLED WITH SALT

IN YOUR CASE...
IT'S NATURAL THAT YOUR HEART WILL BE STOLEN BY THE FISH OTHERS CATCH.

YOU WANT TO EAT IT, RIGHT?
I DO.

MEAN-WHILE ...
THE OTHERS WILL GRADUALLY INCREASE THEIR SCORE.
BY THE TIME SHE NOTICES, SHE'LL BE AT THE LOWEST RANK.

...HEH HEH HEH.
SHE'S OUT.
ﾌﾗ――…

THIS IS THE PITCH-BLACK HELL OF FISHING!!
YOU ARE ALREADY SHOULDER-DEEP IN SLAVERY TO THE OCEAN!!
AH!!
..NELIRO.
YOU GOT ME.
NOW, NOW.
WHAT-EVER DO YOU MEAN.

...OH NO!!
I'M COMPLETELY LOSING TO MY APPETITE AND LOSING AT FISHING TOO.
I HAVE TO STRIKE BACK SOMEHOW!!
PLEASE!!
IF I LOSE WITH HELP, I'LL BE OKAY WITH BEING A SLAVE FOR MY WHOLE LIFE!!
I'LL NEVER TAKE MY TONGUE OFF YOUR SHOES!!
SHE DOESN'T HAVE THE CHOICE TO KEEP HERSELF FROM EATING.
NEURO!!
CAN I CALL IN SOMEONE TO HELP ME?
NO.
....VERY WELL.
BUT IF YOU ARE NOT IN FIRST PLACE WITH THAT PERSON'S HELP, YOU LOSE.
YAY!
I'M GOING TO CALL HIM NOW!!

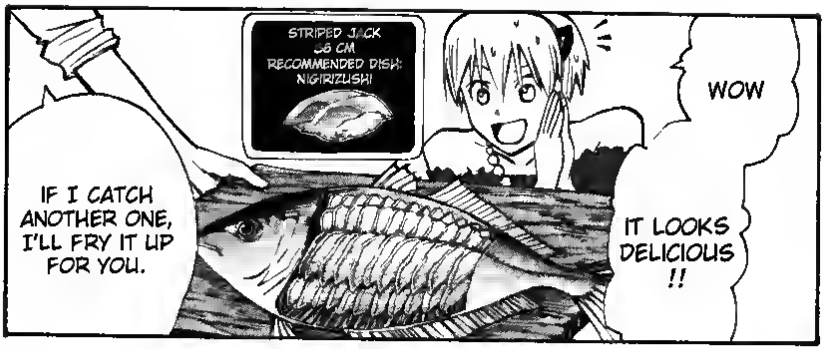
EVEN I HAVE CONNECTIONS.
BUT IF I WANT TO CATCH SOMETHING BIG...
YOU PROBABLY THINK IT'LL BE SOME ORDINARY ASSISTANT, NEURO.
ザザァ……ン
AH, THE OCEAN.
キキッ
IT'S CALM TODAY TOO, JUST AS I HAD FIGURED.
ザッ
HEY, BRAT.
YOU MADE THE RIGHT CHOICE, CALLING ME.
OVER HERE!!
MISTER!!

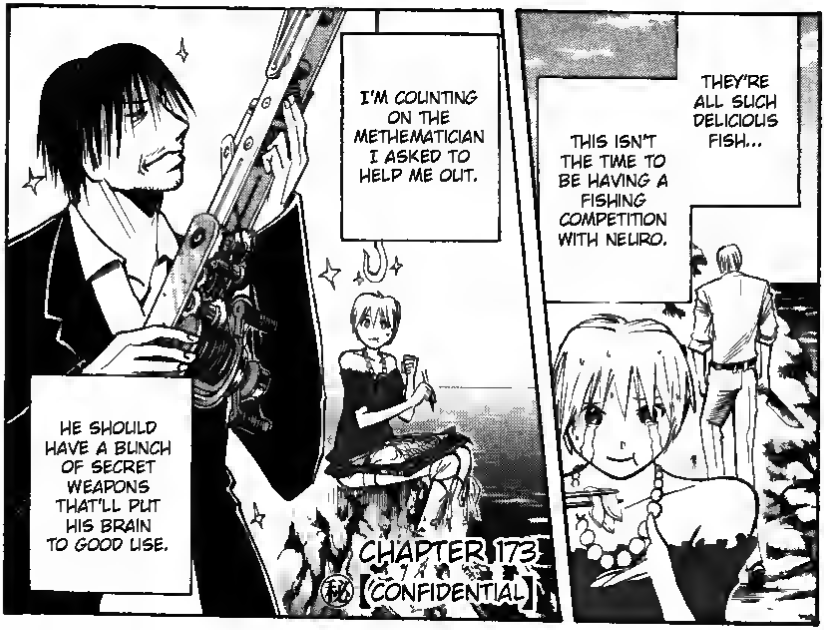
THINKING BACK ON IT, YOU'RE HONJOU, RIGHT?
THANKS FOR THAT IMPORTANT INFORMATION BACK THEN.
WHY,
YOU TOO, MUST BE A LOT OF HARD WORK LATELY.
JUST WAIT AND YOU'LL BE IN GOOD SHAPE.
SURE!!
OKAY, MISTER?
GOTCHA
JUST LIKE WHEN YOU CAUGHT THAT HUGE FISH...
IF I PUT MY INVENTIONS TO GOOD USE, IT'LL BE EASY.
ゴゴゴゴゴゴ
BEWARE THE LORD OF THE OCEAN!!
ﾀﾀｯ

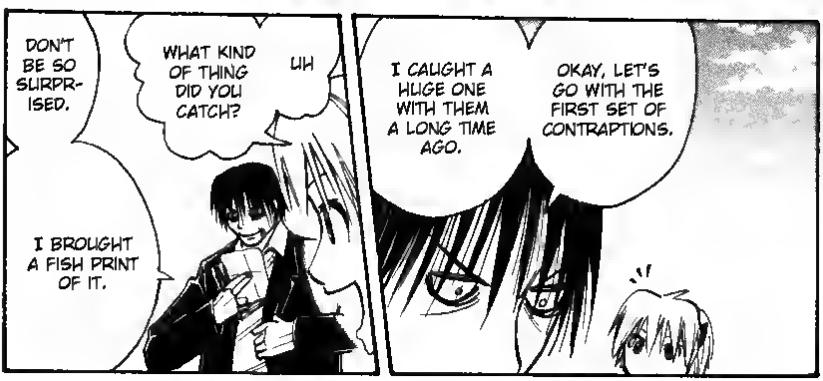
BEWARE THE LORD OF THE OCEAN!!
THE LORD OF THE OCEAN HAS APPEARED AT THIS CLIFF RECENTLY.
HE IS OF A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT RANK THAN THE LORDS OF LAKES AND PONDS. HE IS THE EMPEROR AMONG THE VAST OCEANS OF THE WORLD.
IF YOU TRY TO CATCH HIM, YOU WILL DIE, SO PLEASE NEVER APPROACH THE CLIFF.

NEAR MY HOUSE, THERE'S A SHOP THAT'S PROUD OF ITS LARGE FISH POND AND ITS IKEZUKURI.

IT'S A POPULAR CHOICE. ♡


STRIPED JACK
.56 CM
RECOMMENDED DISH:
NIGIRIZUSHI
WOW
IT LOOKS DELICIOUS !!
IF I CATCH ANOTHER ONE, I'LL FRY IT UP FOR YOU.

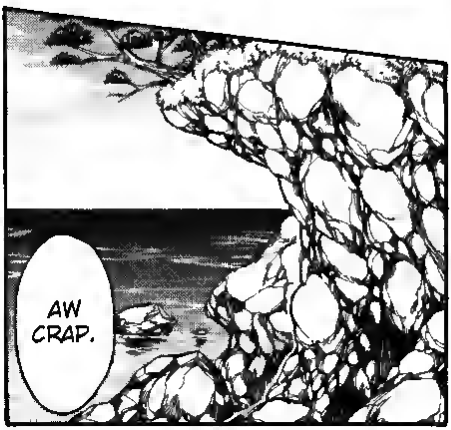

I'M COUNTING ON THE METHEMATICIAN I ASKED TO HELP ME OUT.
HE SHOULD HAVE A BUNCH OF SECRET WEAPONS THAT'LL PUT HIS BRAIN TO GOOD USE.
THEY'RE ALL SUCH DELICIOUS FISH...
THIS ISN'T THE TIME TO BE HAVING A FISHING COMPETITION WITH NEURO.
CHAPTER 173
[CONFIDENTIAL]


DON'T BE SO SURPR-ISED.
I BROUGHT A FISH PRINT OF IT.
WHAT KIND OF THING DID YOU CATCH?
UH
I CAUGHT A HUGE ONE WITH THEM A LONG TIME AGO.
OKAY, LET'S GO WITH THE FIRST SET OF CONTRAPTIONS.

CHAPTER 173 秘
【CONFIDENTIAL】
I CAUGHT THIS ONE IN A BRITISH LAKE.

I'M GETTING A REALLY BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS.
...HUH?
UM...
UH.
.....

BLACK ROCKFISH 31 CM. RECOMMENDED DISH: BOILED AND SEASONED
YOU'VE GOT A LOT OF NERVE, CATCHING ONE FASTER THAN ME, ROOKIE.
NO, I WON'T!!
AND YOU WON'T GIVE IT TO ME.


AW CRAP.

I WORKED ALL THROUGH LAST NIGHT TO MODIFY A FIGURINE.
I'LL HAVE TO BRING OUT MY SPECIAL LURE.
GUESS THERE'S NOTHING ELSE I CAN DO.
I'M AIMING TO CATCH SOMETHING EVEN BIGGER THAN THE 105 CM BASS THAT SEMPAI CAUGHT!!
チャポン
IT LOOKS INDECENT.
.....
VALUABLE THINGS DRAW THE FISH TO THEM.
IT'S GOT GOLD LAME TOO, SO THAT SHOULD MAKE THE FISH EXCITED TO SEE IT.
IT'S HUGE!!
グ
WHOA, I GOT ONE FAST!!
!

ASADA TADANOBU
176 CM
RECOMMENDED DISH:
DIABETES
ガバ
ガバ
ガバ

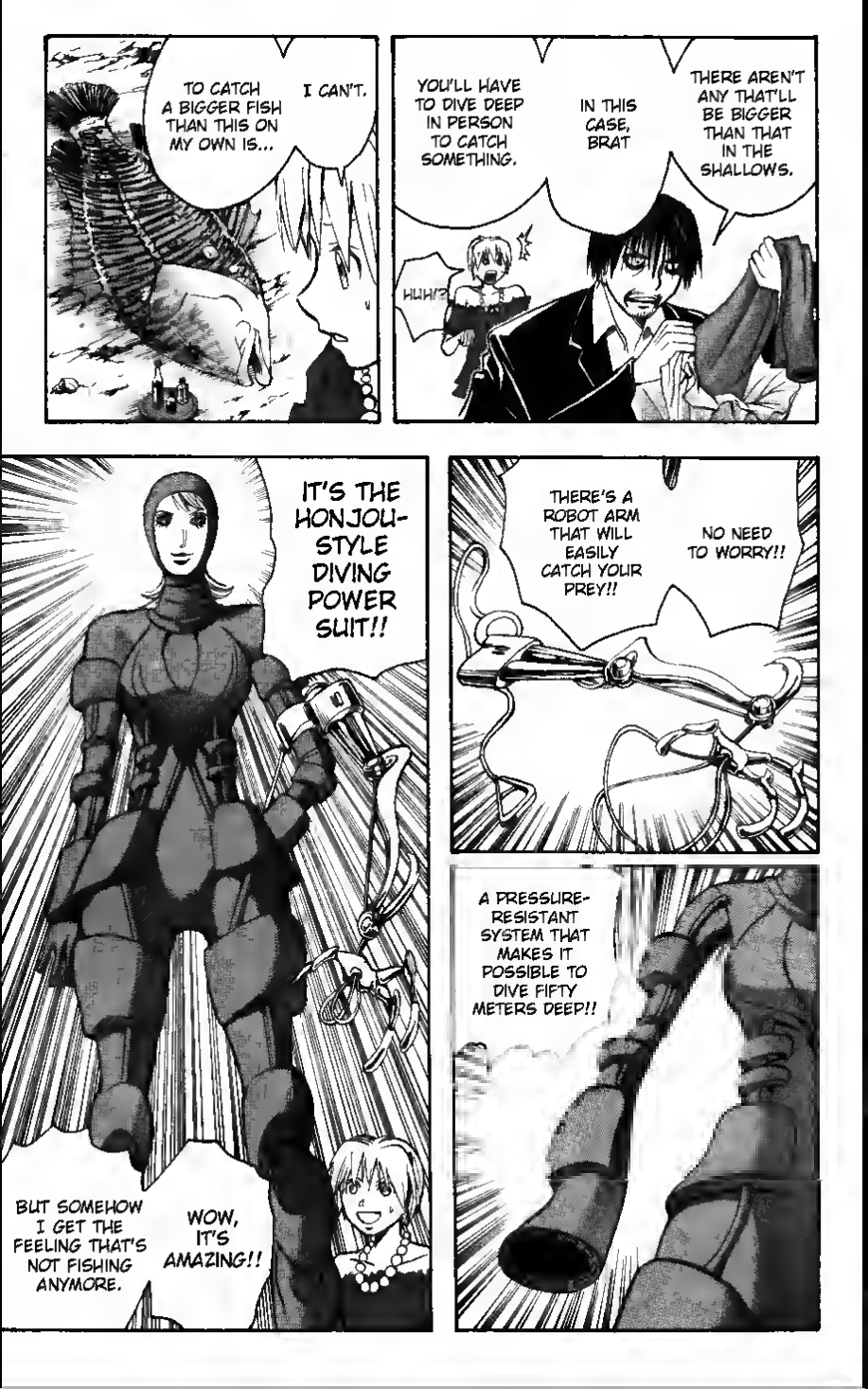
DON'T RUSH ME.
IT LOOKS LIKE ISHIGAKI CAUGHT SOMETHING BIG, MISTER.
UH-OH.
I'M SLOWLY GETTING THINGS READY HERE, TOO.
ガガガガガガ
...OTHERWISE THE FISH WOULD SHAKE FREE AND GET AWAY, WOULDN'T IT?
NO, IT'S A DRILLING MACHINE.
MISTER...
THAT'S NOT A FISHING ROD, IS IT?
YOU HAVE TO MAKE A GOOD SUPPORT FOR YOUR FEET IF YOU WANT TO CATCH SOMETHING BIG.
DON'T WORRY.
WE'LL COME BACK AROUND THE TIME IT FINISHES SETTING.

THE FISHING TOURNAMENT WILL BE OVER.
EVERONE'S GOING BACK TO WORK TOMORROW!!
...YOU LOT ARE IN AN AWFUL HURRY, HUH.
SLOW!!
WELL, IT SHOULD BE DONE IN ABOUT THREE DAYS.
I'LL BURY THE SUPPORTS TEN METERS DEEP AND PUT TOGETHER THE SEVEN-HUNDRED PARTS...

MAKING THE FISH PASS OUT SO THEY CAN BE CAUGHT IS ONE WAY TO FISH.
WE'LL SEND IT ON DOWN.
WELL THEN, IT'S A BIT CRUDE, BUT HOW ABOUT A DEVICE LIKE THIS.
IT'S A SPECIALIZED STUN GUN THAT COULD EVEN TAKE DOWN AN ELEPHANT.

プカァ…。
AND IT WAS CAUGHT TWICE!?
THIS IS A FISH!?
THAT'S THE FISH I CAUGHT, SO IT DOESN'T COUNT.
NONO!!
ASADA TADANOBU 176 CM RECOMMENDED DISH: SINGLE FOR LIFE
YAKO.
ULULU...
フッ
SINCE THE BATTERY'S WORN OUT FROM THE ONE SHOT AT IT.
GUESS IT'D HAVE BEEN BETTER TO USE IT FURTHER FROM SHORE
HMMM, WE ONLY GOT SMALL FISH.

HE'S NOT KIDDING ABOUT BEING GOOD AT FISHING.
NEURO CALIGHT THAT ONE TOO.
LONGTOOTH GROUPER 119 CM RECOMMENDED DISH CHANKO NABE
ドーズン
IF THIS KEEPS UP, THERE'S NO DOUBT HE'LL COME IN FIRST.
I'LL BE IN LAST PLACE.
I WON'T ESCAPE THE ROAD TO SLAVERY.
UH-OH.
IT'S DELICIOUS, BUT UH-OH.
ズズ…
M-MISTER!!
CAN'T WE GET A BIGGER ONE SOMEHOW!?
…HEH HEH HEH.
IN THAT CASE, I GUESS I'LL HAVE TO BRING OUT MY FINAL DEVICE.


TO CATCH A BIGGER FISH THAN THIS ON MY OWN IS...
I CAN'T.
YOU'LL HAVE TO DIVE DEEP IN PERSON TO CATCH SOMETHING.
IN THIS CASE, BRAT
THERE AREN'T ANY THAT'LL BE BIGGER THAN THAT IN THE SHALLOWS.
HUH!?
IT'S THE HONJOU-STYLE DIVING POWER SUIT!!
THERE'S A ROBOT ARM THAT WILL EASILY CATCH YOUR PREY!!
NO NEED TO WORRY!!
A PRESSURE-RESISTANT SYSTEM THAT MAKES IT POSSIBLE TO DIVE FIFTY METERS DEEP!!
BUT SOMEHOW I GET THE FEELING THAT'S NOT FISHING ANYMORE.
WOW, IT'S AMAZING!!

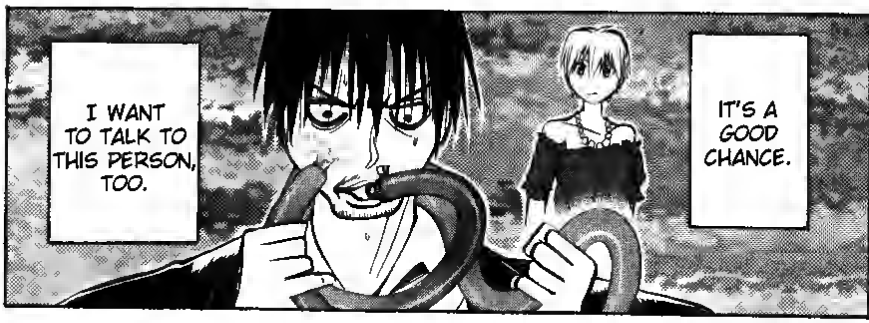
I'VE GOT A TUBE, BUT...
A SINGLE PERSON'S LUNG CAPACITY CAN'T SUCK DOWN AIR TO THE DEPTHS OF THE OCEAN.
HOW AM I GONNA DIVE WITH NO OXYGEN...
I FORGOT THE OXYGEN TANK.
THERE'S JUST ONE PROBLEM I DIDN'T ACCOUNT FOR.
I'LL HAVE TO BLOW AIR DOWN IT.
BY THE WAY, I HAVEN'T BRUSHED MY TEETH IN A MONTH.
むぁん
IS-
IS THIS THE ONLY WAY!?
I HAVE TO DIVE WHILE SUCKING DOWN HIS BEASTLY BREATH!?
BUT...
EVEN WHILE I'M DOING THIS, NEURO IS SURE TO...

THERE'S SOMETHING YOU'D LIKE TO ASK, ISN'T THERE?
SINCE YOU ASKED US ALONG TO THIS SORT OF PLACE.
HOW ABOUT A TALK, DETECTIVE SASAZUKA.
.....
CAN'T GET ANYTHING PAST YOU, HUH.
I WANT TO ASK YOUR HONEST OPINION.
...WELL
...HAVE SOMETHING TO DISCUSS.
THE BOTH OF US...
A LONG DISCUSSION.

...IS THAT WHY?
MR. SASAZUKA ASKING US ALONG FOR RECREATION ...
I THOUGHT IT WAS UNUSUAL.

AS LONG AS WE'RE HERE, THERE'S NO WORRIES ABOUT EAVESDROPPING EVEN IN THE WORST POSSIBLE CASE.
... THAT'S RIGHT.
IT'S BEST TO SPEAK QUIETLY ABOUT THE SECRETS...
IN REGARD TO THE BLOODLINE FROM HERE ONWARD.

.....


I WANT TO TALK TO THIS PERSON, TOO.
IT'S A GOOD CHANCE.

YOU TALKED ABOUT IT BEFORE, BUT
...CAN I ASK YOU SOMETHING ...MISTER?

THEN WHAT?
IF IT WASN'T ...
THE BRAIN IRREGULARITIES THAT WERE THE REASON SETSUNA PASSED AWAY
YOUR DAUGHTER ...
WEREN'T A DISEASE, YOU SAID.
NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, THE CHANCE TO KILL HIM KEEPS EVADING ME.
I KNOW WHO DID IT.
I HATE HIM SO MUCH THAT I COULD KILL HIM BUT...
.....
.....EVEN IF I TOLD YOU, BRAT, YOU COULD NEVER UNDERSTAND.
THE CALISE WAS SOMETHING MAN-MADE.
WHAT I CAN SAY IS ...

THEN, AN EASIER QUESTION.
IF IT'S DIFFICULT FOR YOU, YOU DON'T HAVE TO SAY ANY MORE THAN THAT.
...I UNDER-STAND.
SETSUNA...
SHE MUST HAVE BEEN A NICE PERSON, HUH?
I'M GOING TO THE UNIVERSITY BUT
DAD.
IS THERE ANYTHING YOU WANT ME TO PICK UP ON THE WAY HOME?
SHE WAS THE BEST DAUGHTER A MAN COULD HOPE FOR!
SHE GAVE ME SUPPORT AFTER MY WIFE PASSED AWAY, THROUGH THE SUNLIGHT AND THE SHADOWS.

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO USE A THOUSAND-YEN BILL FOR?
...UH
IM GOING TO USE IT TO PROVE THE QUANTUM CALCULATIONS I DERIVED.
BRING BACK A THOUSAND-YEN BILL FOR ME.
THAT'D BE GREAT.
SPECIFICALLY, THESE CONDITIONS WILL BE MET AND A STRUCTURE THAT COULD BE CALLED A PSEUDO-WORMHOLE COMES INTO BEING INSIDE A SPHERE OF LEAD THAT IS REVOLVING AT NEAR-LIGHT SPEEDS...
OH GEEZ, THAT'S ENOUGH
UH-HUH.
UH-HUH.
IT'S A HYPOTHESIS THAT TRANSCENDS THE UNCERTAINTY PRINCIPLE AND CONTROLS PLANCK UNITS.
IF A THOUSAND-YEN BILL IS ALLOWED TO MOVE FREELY INSIDE THIS DEVICE, THE LEVEL OF THE ELEMENTARY PARTICLES WILL BE NEATLY DISPLACED
FIRST OF ALL, DAD,
I DON'T NEED TO PICK UP A THOUSAND-YEN BILL BECAUSE THERE'S ALWAYS ONE IN MY WALLET.
I'M ALWAYS USING MY CREDIT CARD INSTEAD, SO I FORGET ABOUT IT.
OH.
TO PUT IT SIMPLY, IF IT WORKS...
THE TOP OF THE THOUSAND-YEN BILL BECOMES THE BOTTOM
AND THE BOTTOM BECOMES THE TOP?
EXACTLY!!

AND
IF YOU SWITCH THE TOP AND BOTTOM LIKE THAT
WHO'D BE ABLE TO PROVE IT WORKED?
裏
表
=
表
裏
OH, YOU'RE RIGHT!
.....
IF I MAKE SOLE BOILED WITH SOY SAUCE FOR A THOUSAND YEN...
IT'LL BE AN EXPERIMENT THAT CAN REALLY SATISFY YOU, SINCE IT'S YOUR FAVORITE.
HEY, DON'T GET SO DOWN.
YOU JUST HAVE TO RECONSIDER THE SUBJECT OF THE EXPERIMENT.
WELL, I'LL USE THIS THOUSAND-YEN BILL TONIGHT...
IN A MORE MEANINGFUL EXPERIMENT FOR YOU
?
...I CAN PICTURE THE RESULTS OF THAT EXPERIMENT.
MY WISE DAUGHTER...
WHO COULD SO EASILY DESTROY MY CALCULATIONS.

WHEN MY DAUGHTER WAS TRAGICALLY CONFINED TO HER BED.
I MET HARUKAWA...
I COULDN'T SEE THAT LIKE MYSELF.
NOT ONLY HAD HE BEEN CHASING IT DOWN FOR HER SAKE
BUT ALSO THAT THE INSANITY INSIDE HIM WAS SWELLING.
IF SOMEONE WAS SO RECKLESS AS TO WRECK HIS CALCULATIONS
IT'D BE OVER WITHOUT SUFFERING SO MUCH.
.....
BUT, BRAT
DESPITE THAT
IT'S THE ULTIMATE IN SELFISHNESS TO THINK IT BUT
DESPITE THAT, MY DAUGHTER...

DESPITE THAT, MY DAUGHTER DIED HAPPY...
THAT'S WHAT I BELIEVE AND NEVER DOUBT IT.

I'M... SURE SHE DID, ABSOLUTELY.
....YEAH.

WHILE WE WEREN'T PAYING ATENTION, IGNORANT ONES HAVE GATHERED.
...OH DEAR.
APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN UNSEEN.
THE WARNING WE WENT TO THE TROUBLE OF PUTTING UP, TOO..
BEWARE THE LORD OF THE OCEAN!!
THE SOVEREIGN OF THE OCEAN, THE SOVEREIGN OF THE WORLD
WE'LL TEACH YOU TO FEAR THE LORD OF THE OCEAN!!

HONJOU FUMIO

BIRTHDATE: FEBRUARY 3
AGE: 55
HEIGHT: 166 CM
WEIGHT: 62 KG
FORMER TITLE:
UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR & CHIEF OF A VARIETY OF RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS
PRESENT SOURCE OF INCOME:
AQUIRED FROM VARIOUS PATENTS
SPEAKING ON THE CHARMS OF CARDBOARD:
IN SHORT, BY ITS PHYSICAL CONSTRUCTION THE MOST FRAGILE PAPER IN THE WORLD CAN BE LIKE DIAMONDS.

ONE HOUR LATER

USING THE SPECIFIC CALCULATIONS HERE, AS I'M SURE YOU UNDERSTAND, WHEN THE NUMBER OF LAYERS OF CARDBOARD IS EQUAL TO X...

FIVE HOURS LATER

I'M TAKING TOO LONG!? DON'T WORRY, I'LL BE DONE IN ANOTHER TEN MINUTES.

TEN HOURS LATER

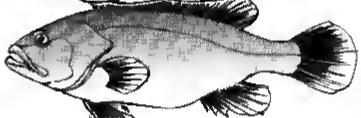
TRANSLATOR'S NOTE: THE "FU" AND "MI" IN HIS NAME ARE THE NUMBERS 2 AND 3 RESPECTIVELY. HE HAS ALSO CLEARLY WRITTEN 2 X 3 IN FRONT OF HIM IN HIS PROFILE PICTURE.

FISHING TOURNAMENT: PRESENT RANKINGS

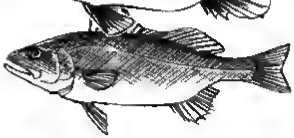
* RULES WHERE THE WINNER IS THE MASTER OF THE LOSER

1. ISHIGAKI
2. NEURO
3. SASAZUKA
4. TODOROKI
5. YAKO & HONJOU

ASADA
176 CM



LONGTOOTH GROUPER
119 CM



SEA BASS
105 CM

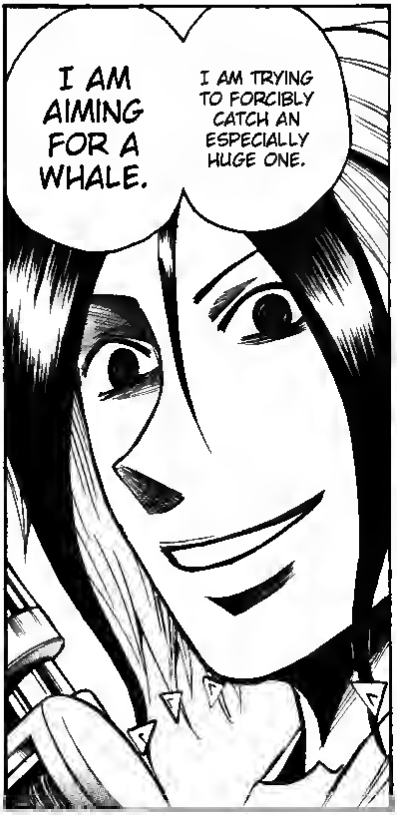
BLACK ROCKFISH
31 CM

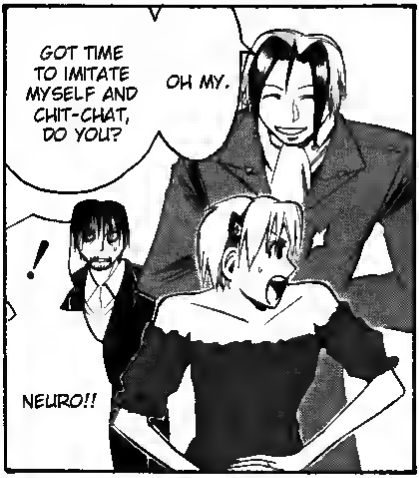
NAMELESS TINY FISH
10 CM

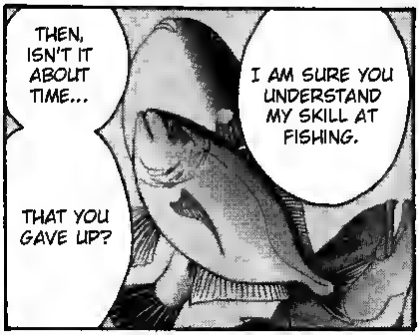
FISHING

CHAPTER 174 釣

【ARREST】







M-
MISTER!!
I'M GONNA BORROW THIS DIVING SUIT!!
IN LAST PLACE, I HAVE TO CATCH A BIG ONE ON MY OWN!!
THERE'S NO DOUBT THAT WITH HIS SKILL, HE COULD CATCH A WHALE!!
OH NO!!
I'M GREAT AT DIVING.
I SHOULD BE ABLE TO GET A BIG ONE SWIMMING TWENTY METERS DEEP.
IF I BORROW THE POWER OF HIS SPECIAL DIVING SUIT...
ARE YOU GOING TO BREATHE THE AIR I BLOW DOWN?
SURE.
IT'LL BE A CHALLENGE TO DIVE PLAIN!!
NO, I'M FINE!!

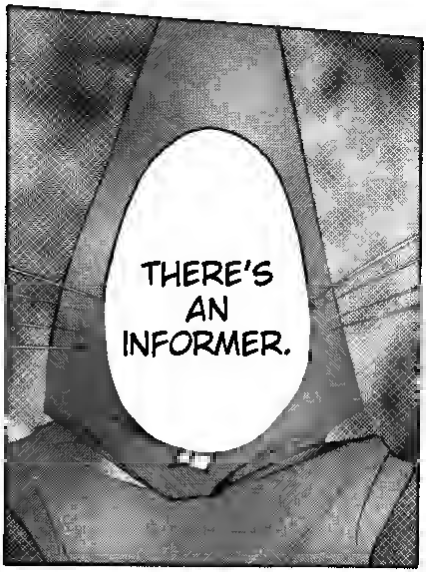
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE.
HUH?
OKAY, A-ONE AND A...
I JUST HAVE TO AVOID BEING TURNED INTO A SLAVE.
WE CAN'T GUARANTEE YOUR SAFETY IF YOU GO DIVING AND SO ON HERE.
THE LORD OF THE OCEAN RESIDES IN THE OCEAN HERE.
GOOD LUCK, BRAT!!
I SHALL TRY FISHING TOO.
....NOW THEN
SORRY, BUT I'M IN A HURRY!!
THE LORD OF THE OCEAN!?
I'LL APOLOGIZE TO HIM LATER.

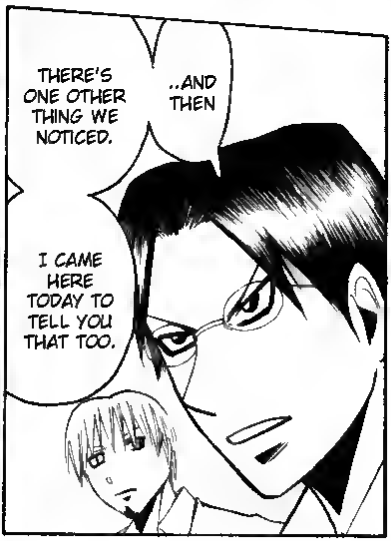
SUCH...
FOOLISH-NESS.
...USUI.
I'M SURPRSIED YOU SHOWED UP SUDDENLY AFTER YOU CALLED.
SASA-ZUKA.
WASTING THE DAY OFF I GAVE YOU, I SEE.
OH, THAT'S RIGHT. BACK WHEN WE WERE STUDENTS, THE THREE OF US WENT FISHING ONCE.
YES.
MR. USUI TIRED OF FISHING QUICKLY AND WENT TO WORK PUTTING SEASHELLS TO HIS EAR, LOST IN DAYDREAMS.
THAT WAS A LONG TIME AGO!!
WANT A GO?
NO.

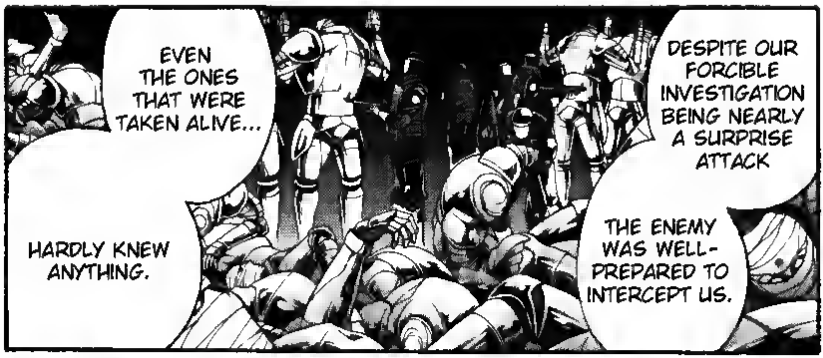
IT'S ABOUT THE INVESTIGATION OF THAT PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANY THE OTHER DAY.
...BUT SINCE WE'RE HERE, IT CERTAINLY DOES MAKE IT EASY TO TALK.
ON THE VERGE OF ANNOUNCING IT
UPPER MANAGEMENT PUT A STOP TO IT.
STOP
THERE WAS NUMEROUS EVIDENCE OF HORRIFIC HUMAN EXPERIMENTATION THERE.
YOU MIGHT BE WRONG ...!!
A CERTAIN POLITICIAN IS SAYING WE SHOULD WAIT TO PASS JUDGEMENT.
...SUCH FOOLISHNESS.
THEY HAVE PRETTY GOOD TIES TO THE GOVERNMENTS OF VARIOUS COUNTRIES, TOO.
THERE'S NO DOUBT THAT THE ONE PULLING THE STRINGS IS THE WORLD'S TOP MUNITIONS MANUFACTURER.

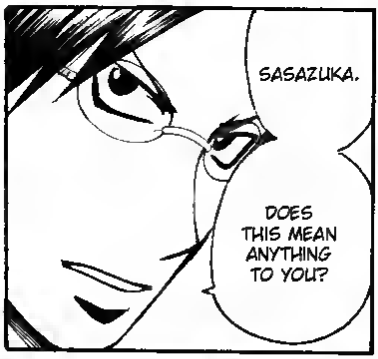
WHAT!?
I'M BEING PULLED DOWN!!
A FISH !?
CLAWS ...
THEY'RE HANDS!!
...NO, THAT'S NOT RIGHT.

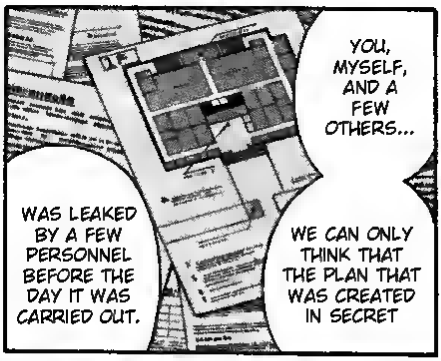
THE LORD ...
OF THE OCEAN ...
NE...
HELP ME...


THERE'S AN INFORMER.


THERE'S ONE OTHER THING WE NOTICED.
..AND THEN
I CAME HERE TODAY TO TELL YOU THAT TOO.


EVEN THE ONES THAT WERE TAKEN ALIVE...
HARDLY KNEW ANYTHING.
DESPITE OUR FORCIBLE INVESTIGATION BEING NEARLY A SURPRISE ATTACK
THE ENEMY WAS WELL-PREPARED TO INTERCEPT US.


SASAZUKA.
DOES THIS MEAN ANYTHING TO YOU?


YOU, MYSELF, AND A FEW OTHERS...
WE CAN ONLY THINK THAT THE PLAN THAT WAS CREATED IN SECRET
WAS LEAKED BY A FEW PERSONNEL BEFORE THE DAY IT WAS CARRIED OUT.

WELL, THAT'LL HAVE TO DO.
...REALLY.

...

.....
WELL.
NOTHING AT ALL, TO ME.

THAT'S HOW...
YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN THAT WAY.
YOU RAN AWAY FROM YOUR MATCH WITH ME.
YOU HAVE A HABIT OF HIDING THINGS ON YOUR OWN AND MAKING DECISIONS ON YOUR OWN.
THE MAIN THING IS..
I CAN'T DO ANYTHING IF YOU'RE HIDING VITAL INFORMATION.
IN THIS IMPORTANT ASPECT OF THINGS...
JUST LETTING YOU KNOW.
WE'RE LEAVING, TSUKUSHI.

IT'S TERRIBLY EARLY TO BE HEADING BACK, INSPECTOR USUI.
PLEASE, HAVE A LOOK AT THIS HUGE FISH!
IT'S A WAY OF FISHING CALLED "TOMOZURI".
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チャ
WITH SENSEI AS THE LIVE BAIT
IT SEEMS SHE WAS DEVOURED BY SAVAGE FISH.

WHILE WARNING US NOT TO GO INTO THE OCEAN...
THIS OLD COUPLE ATTACKED THE ONE WHO WENT BENEATH THE WAVES.
WHAT SORT OF CONNECTION DO THEY HAVE TO IT, I WONDER?
THIS UNNATURAL WARNING SIGN HAD FALLEN INTO THE SHADOW OF THE CLIFF.
BEWARE THE LORD OF THE OCEAN!!
THE LORD OF THE OCEAN HAS APPEARED AT THIS CLIFF RECENTLY
HE IS OF A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT
THAN THE LORDS OF LANDS
HE IS THE EMPEROR
OCEANS OF THE
...YES.
AGAINST THOSE WHO ARE WITHOUT FEAR OF THE OCEAN,
AND WOULD DEFILE THE OCEAN.
グイ
OUR DUTY IS TO PROTECT THE BEAUTIFUL DRAGON PALACE
BENEATH THE OCEAN.
PARADISE IS BROAD

WE BECAME THE LORDS OF THE OCEAN...
AND THE ONES WHO INFLICT THE OCEAN'S PUNISHMENTS.

...THESE GUYS!!
WHAT ARE THEY GOING ON ABOUT ALL OF A SUDDEN!?

グイ
ハチャ
WHEN I WAS SEARCHING THE BOTTOM, A SHORT WHILE AGO...
I FELT SOMETHING FLAT ON THE TIP OF THE HOOK.
IT WAS AN UNNATURAL FEELING, GIVEN THERE ARE FEW SIGNS OF HUMAN ACTIVITY IN THIS INLET.

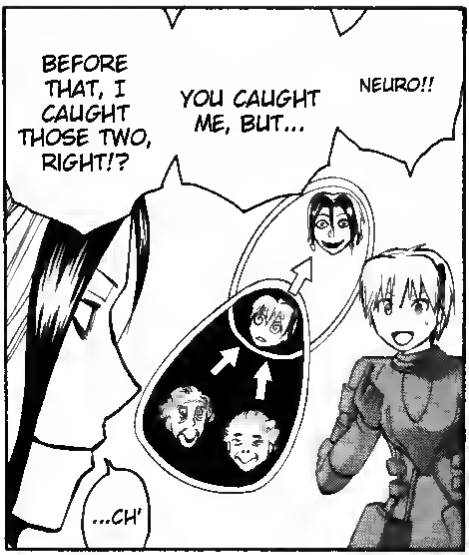
IT SEEMS THERE IS YET ANOTHER PREY TO BE CAUGHT.
バシッ
バシャ

IS THE DRAGON PALACE THEY WERE TRYING TO PROTECT.
CASH 16 CM EACH RECOMMENDED DISH. HOUSE, CAR, STATUS, HONOR... OH, I JUST CAN'T DECIDE!!
...IN SHORT, THIS...
...ODD. THEY'RE ALL OLD BILLS.
THERE MUST BE SOME REASON FOR KEEPING THIS MONEY.
THIS IS...
SURE, IF YOU HAD THIS, IT'D BE PARADISE BUT
!!

WHILE YOU WERE ON THE LOOSE THE STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS WOULD HAVE RUN OUT IN A YEAR BUT...
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU WERE HIDING OUT IN A PLACE LIKE THIS!!
WANTED
WANTED
IYOKO
THEY'RE
THE ROBBERS OF THE LUXURY CRUISE LINER NINETEEN YEARS AGO...
THE HUSBAND AND WIFE TEAM, THE KAMEDAS !!
YOU KEPT AWAY PEOPLE THAT CAME NEAR OR ATTACKED THEM
MASQUERADING AS THE LORD OF THE OCEAN...
TO PROTECT YOURSELVES AND THE MONEY.
FOR LETTING THE MONEY REST UNTIL THE STATUTE HAD RUN OUT
IF YOU HAD USED THE CASH, YOU WOULD HAVE BEEN CAUGHT.
AND TO HIDE YOURSELVES FROM THE GAZE OF THE PUBLIC...
THIS TYPE OF INLET WAS THE MOST SUITABLE.

SEEM TO HAVE RETURNED FROM THE DRAGON PALACE.
THOSE DISAPPOINTED ELDERLY FORMS OF THEIRS
LORDS OF THE OCEAN 157 CM / 150 CM RECOMMENDED DISH. DOING HARD TIME
WOULD HAVE. . BEEN ONE MORE YEAR..
IT...
BUT IT IS QUITE GOOD.
OH DEAR.
!
ひょい
SORRY, YOU TWO.
I CALLED YOU OUT HERE BUT IT LOOKS LIKE I'VE GOT SOME FINAL WORK TO DEAL WITH.
THIS'LL BE THE END OF THE FISHING TOURNAMENT.
...I SUPPOSE THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO ABOUT THAT.
TAKE THEM AWAY.
ISHIGAKI, TODOROKI.
...GOOD GRIEF.
Y-YESSIR!

WHICH MEANS I MANAGED TO AVOID COMING IN LAST ON MY OWN, SOMEHOW!!
I'M NOT GONNA BE A SLAVE!!


BEFORE THAT, I CAUGHT THOSE TWO, RIGHT!?
YOU CAUGHT ME, BUT...
NEURO!!
...CH'

ON YOUR KNEES, ROOKIE.

.....

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チョン

THE RULES WERE, "WHOEVER CATCHES THE BIGGEST ONE."
BUT THAT'S NOT A FISH!!
NOW THEN, WHAT SHOULD I MAKE YOU DO~~~.
I CAME IN FIRST AND YOU CAME IN LAST, IN THE FINAL SCORE.
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING!?
WAIT JUST A..
THAT MEANS THAT YOU SUBMIT TO ME.
AH.
AH.
YOU COULD APOLOGIZE FOR NOW, RIGHT!?
FOR YOUR RUDENESS SO FAR.
STO..
LET GO!!
SOME-WHERE
...AH.

I'M SORRY, I'M SORRY !!!!
LET'S GO, YAKO.
SURE
...OHO, YOU BASTARDS...
ARE YOU TRYING TO MAKE ME FLY YOU TO A STATION IN THE NORTH?
I FELT COMPLETE PEACE OF MIND.
IN SOME WAY, I THOUGHT
AT THAT POINT, NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENED...
IN THE END
THINGS WOULD KEEP ON BEING THE SAME.
NO MATTER WHAT KIND OF HUGE WAVE CAME

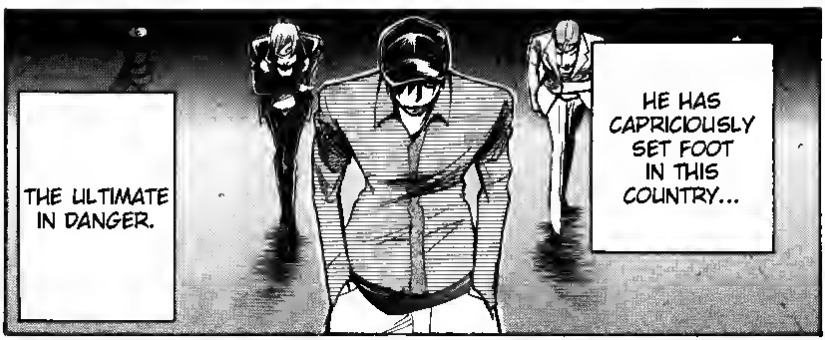
IT WAS SOON AFTER THAT IT HAPPENED.
MR. SASAZUKA WENT MISSING.
LOSING WHAT'S IMPORTANT TO YOU...?
CAN YOU REALLY BEAR

IT'S REALLY GREAT THAT THEY MADE A NEURO FIGURINE.

TO ME, THE ORIGINAL CREATOR, JUST SEEING RELATED GOODS MADE WITH SUCH GREAT FEELING TO THEM MAKES ME HAPPY.

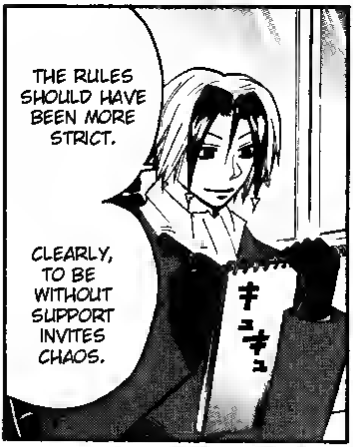
IS ONE WHO FINDS FEAR IRRELEVANT.
ONE WHO IS TRULY STRONG...

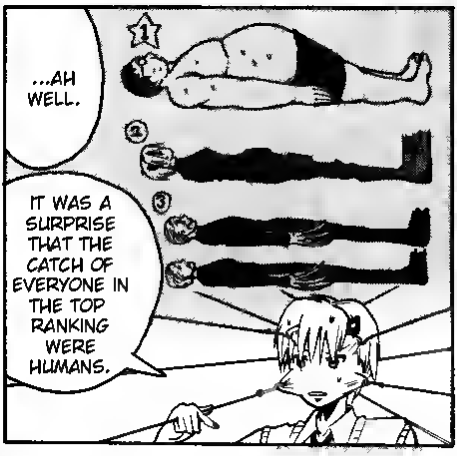
...AND NOW TOO
FOR INSTANCE ONE THAT CAN WALK AIMLESSLY AMONG ENEMY FORCES...
ON A BATTLEFIELD WITHOUT A SINGLE ALLY.
CHAPTER 175 柱【SUPPORT】

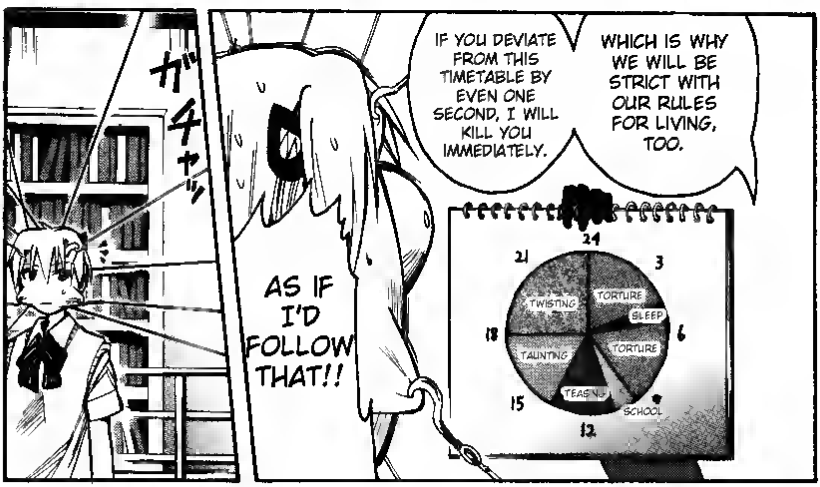

THE ULTIMATE IN DANGER.
HE HAS CAPRICIOUSLY SET FOOT IN THIS COUNTRY...

THE EMPEROR HAS ARRIVED.
HEY,
KASAI.
柱ら
】

THE FISHING COMPETITION ENDED IN AN UNEXPECTEDLY UNFORSEEN WAY.
THE CATCH SHOULD HAVE BEEN LIMITED TO FISH.
ギュゥゥゥ

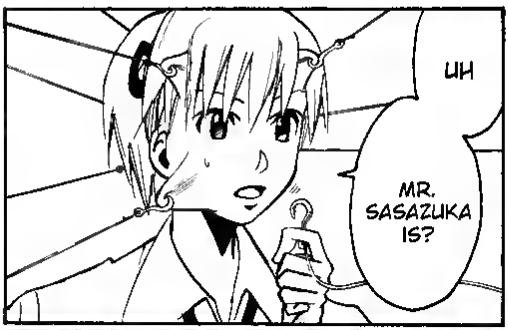

THE RULES SHOULD HAVE BEEN MORE STRICT.
CLEARLY, TO BE WITHOUT SUPPORT INVITES CHAOS.
キュキュ


...AH WELL.
IT WAS A SURPRISE THAT THE CATCH OF EVERYONE IN THE TOP RANKING WERE HUMANS.
1
2
3


ガチャッ
AS IF I'D FOLLOW THAT!!
IF YOU DEVIATE FROM THIS TIMETABLE BY EVEN ONE SECOND, I WILL KILL YOU IMMEDIATELY.
WHICH IS WHY WE WILL BE STRICT WITH OUR RULES FOR LIVING, TOO.
24
3
6
9
12
15
18
21
TWISTING
TORTURE
SLEEP
TORTURE
TAUNTING
TEASING
SCHOOL

MR. ISHIGAKI, MS. TODOROKI.
WHAT'S GOING ON THAT YOU'RE MAKING THAT KIND OF FACE?
UH.
WELL.
RIGHT BACK AT YOU.

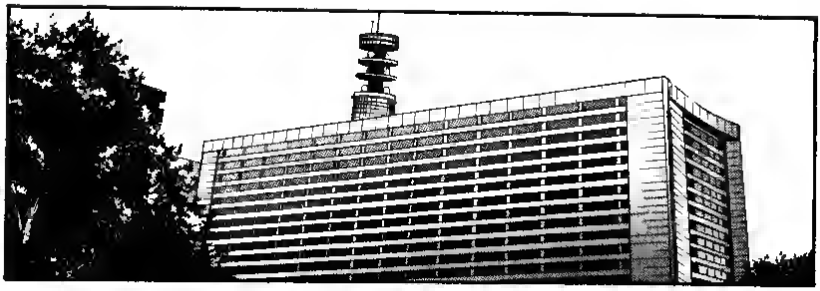
MISS KATSURAGI!

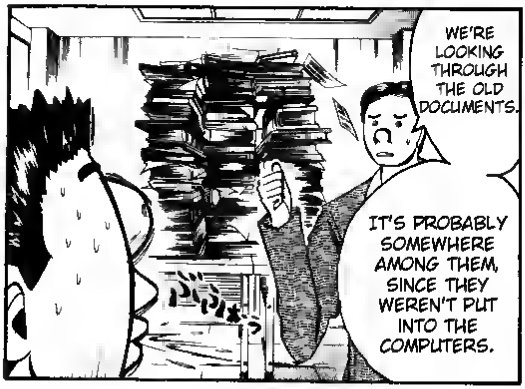

UH
MR. SASAZUKA IS?

DID SEMPAI COME HERE TODAY?
HE'S ABSENT WITHOUT LEAVE TODAY.

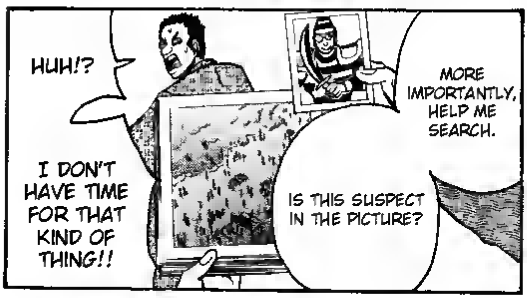
YOU SHOULD AT LEAST HAVE THE MANNERS TO TELL PEOPLE WHEN YOU'RE GOING TO BE SLACKING OFF.
IT'S TERR-IBLE.
UN-USUAL, ISN'T IT.
WHAT'S TERRIBLE IS YOUR OWN SENSE OF AWARE-NES.
I WOULD NOT SEE HIM AS THE TYPE TO BE ABSENT WITHOUT LEAVE.

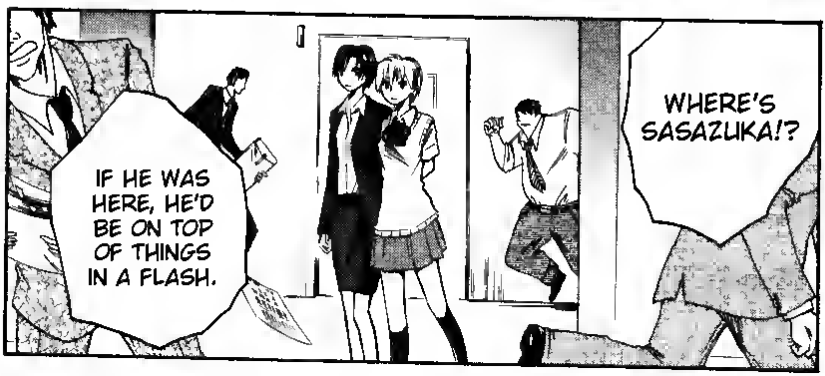
捜査一課
THE OFFICE FALLS INTO CHAOS.
WHEN THE ACE OF THE DEPARTMENT ISN'T AROUND ...
IT'S NO GOOD.
I THOUGHT HE COULD STILL BE IN BAD SHAPE BUT
HE WASN'T AT HIS HOME EITHER.
TOO BAD ABOUT THE INTERRUPTION OF YOUR TORTURE, HUH.
AND THAT MEANS I HAVE TO GO OUT.
IT CANNOT BE HELPED.
SURE, COME ON!!
CAN I COME SEE HOW THINGS ARE, TOO?
THAT'S WORRYING.
YOU CAN HELP ME WITH MY WORK!!
HEY!!
IT'S A MERE SLIVER OF REST TIME!!
24
3
6
9
12
15
18
21
TWISTING
TORTURE
TORTURE
TAUNTIN..
EASING
SCHOOL
THEN, I WILL ERASE THE SLEEP PART FOR WHILE YOU ARE OUT.
THE REMAINING TIME YOU HAVE FOR SLEEP TODAY IS FIFTEEN SECONDS.




WE'RE LOOKING THROUGH THE OLD DOCUMENTS.
IT'S PROBABLY SOMEWHERE AMONG THEM, SINCE THEY WEREN'T PUT INTO THE COMPUTERS.

WHERE ARE THE CLASS-FIVE DANGEROUS LOST GOODS REPORTS!!?

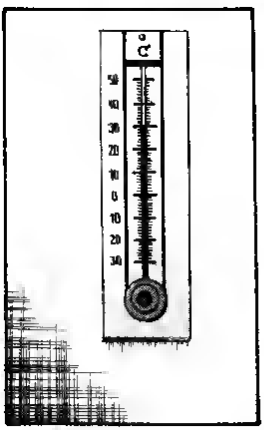

HUH!?
I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THAT KIND OF THING!!
MORE IMPORTANTLY, HELP ME SEARCH.
IS THIS SUSPECT IN THE PICTURE?

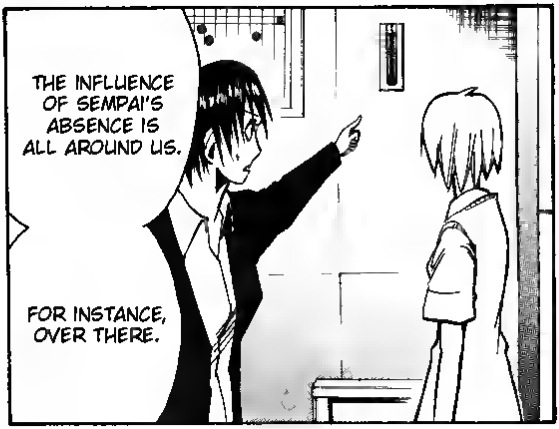

IF HE WAS HERE, HE'D BE ON TOP OF THINGS IN A FLASH.
WHERE'S SASAZUKA!?

THAT'S TERRIBLE.
THE AMOUNT OF WORK SEMPAI DID IN A DAY IS WHAT ISHIGAKI WOULD DO IN THREE MONTHS.
SEMPAI NEVER MADE ANY UNNECESSARY MOVEMENTS.

BECAUSE MR. SASAZUKA ISN'T HERE?
..EVERYONE'S REALLY IN A PANIC.
BECAUSE EVERYBODY RELIES ON HIM.

BEING LIKE THAT...
SEMPAI WAS ALWAYS THERE TO SUPPORT EVERYONE.
SINCE HE DID THE GREATEST AMOUNT OF WORK WITH THE FEWEST MOVEMENTS
HE WAS ALWAYS CALM AND UNSHAKING.




THE INFLUENCE OF SEMPAI'S ABSENCE IS ALL AROUND US.
FOR INSTANCE, OVER THERE.

HE WAS SO COOL THAT HE KEPT IT FROM GETTING WARM !?
BECAUSE SEMPAI ISN'T HERE WITH HIS LOW BODY TEMPERATURE ...
THE TEMPERATURE IN THE ROOM ROSE THREE DEGREES.
WHAT ABOUT LOWERING IT WITH THE AIR CONDITIONER!?
I'M SURE SEMPAI HAD IT.
CHLORO-PHYLL.
HE WAS PHOTO-SYNTHE-SIZING!!
I HAD THOUGHT HE WAS A QUIET PERSON, LIKE A PLANT, BUT
OTHER-WISE..
PLEASE, LOOK AT THE GOLDFISH BEING KEPT BEHIND HIM.
ぱく ぱく ぱく
WHEN HE'S ABSENT, THEY SUFFER FOR THE LACK OF OXYGEN.
AND THEN... THIS PERSON...
WITHOUT SEMPAI AROUND, HE STARTS SLACKING OFF WITHOUT A WORD.

ROOKIE PENALTY GAME PLAN #16
ONE LAP AROUND THE DEPARTMENT WEARING A PLACARD.
STOP DRAWING SUCH RIDICULOUS THINGS...
HEY, ISHIGAKI, GET TO WORK!
THIS MAN IS REALLY...
RIGHT IN HIS ELEMENT.
THE PLAN TO MAKE HER SING MY PRAISES AS A VOICE ACTRESS ON A DRAMA CD IS A STRONG CONTENDER.
I WONDER WHICH I SHOULD CHOOSE FOR THE PENALTY FROM THE FISHING TOURNAMENT.
ギャー
ギャー

SEEING THE INVESTIGATION DEPARTMENT IN A MILD PANIC...
WHY DOES IT MAKE ME A LITTLE BIT HAPPY?

IT'S BECAUSE THIS CHAOS RIGHT NOW...
SHOWS SASAZUKA'S HUMAN APPEAL.

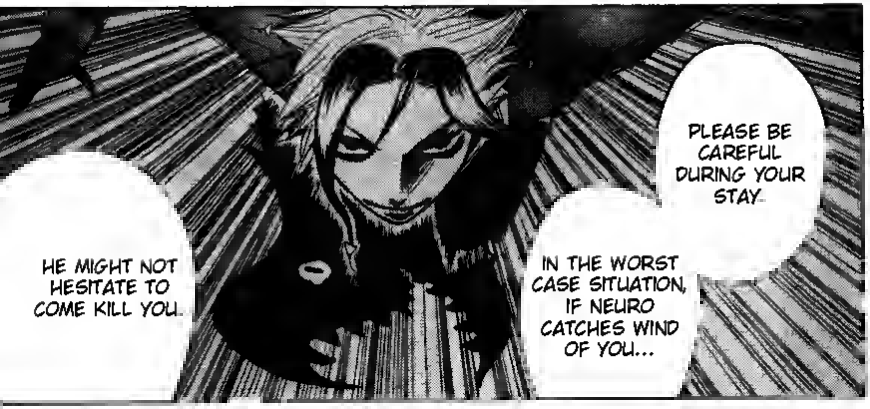
EVEN THOUGH HE WAS STIFF, THERE WAS ALWAYS THE FEELING HE WAS THERE
BLUNT, BUT WELL-LIKED.

I'LL GO ASK MR. USUI IF HE KNOWS ANYTHING.
...ALTHOUGH HIS ABSENCE WITHOUT LEAVE IS WORRYING.

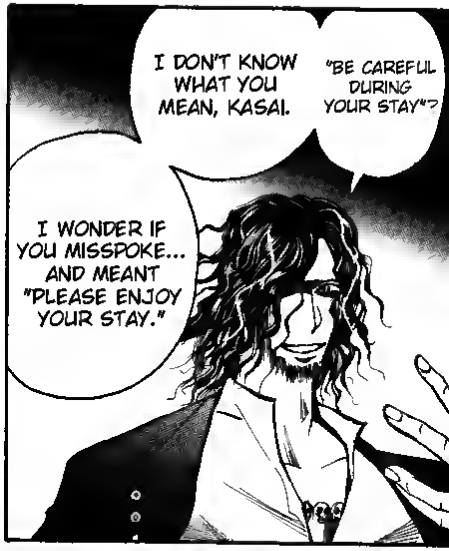
HOW LONG WILL YOU BE STAYING?
TWO DAYS...
THREE AT MOST.

SINCE YOU'RE ENTERING THE COUNTRY IN STRICT SECRECY THIS TIME, I THINK IT'LL BE FINE BUT
...I SEE.

IF IT GIVES HIM A MODERATE AMOUNT OF STRESS, BUSINESS WILL GO VERY WELL.
IT'S ONLY A LITTLE VISIT TO A REGULAR BUSINESS PARTNER.


HE MIGHT NOT HESITATE TO COME KILL YOU.
IN THE WORST CASE SITUATION, IF NEURO CATCHES WIND OF YOU...
PLEASE BE CAREFUL DURING YOUR STAY.

.....?


I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN, KASAI.
"BE CAREFUL DURING YOUR STAY"?
I WONDER IF YOU MISSPOKE... AND MEANT "PLEASE ENJOY YOUR STAY."

I'VE BEEN LOOKING FORWARD TO IT
FINALLY...
PUTTING THE LEGENDARY CRIMINAL, KASAI ZENJIROU, TO WORK FOR ME.
.....

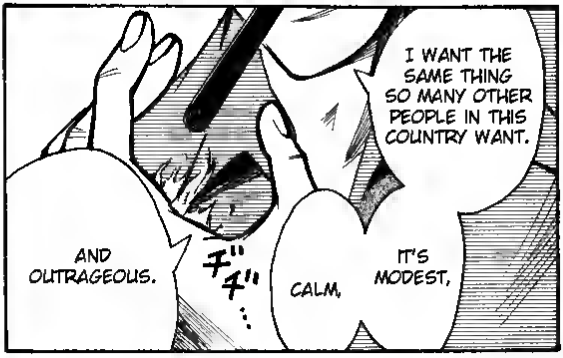
DO YOU DESIRE FROM THE NEW WORLD OF THE "NEW BLOODLINE"?
WHAT...
TELL ME, KASAI.

I'M THE KIND OF GUY THAT JUST CAN'T THINK ON A GRAND SCALE.
WELL, AS FOR ME, "SICKS",
UNLIKE THE OTHER "FIVE FINGERS" ...

トントントントン
.....

...OHO.
AND THAT DESIRE IS?

IT'S JUST A TINY LIL' THING, WHAT I WANT.

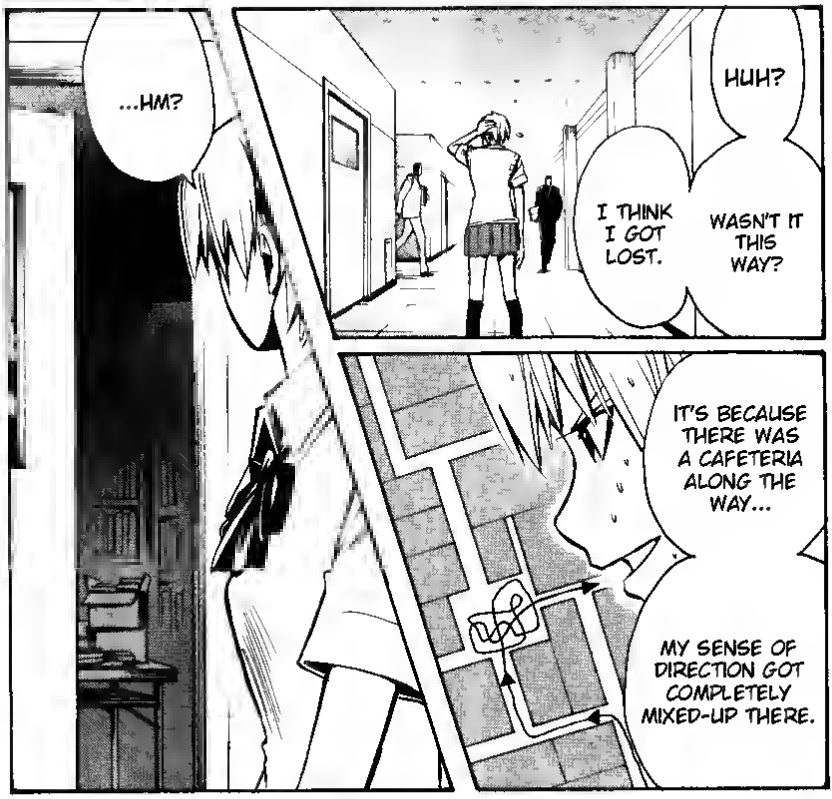

I WANT THE SAME THING SO MANY OTHER PEOPLE IN THIS COUNTRY WANT.
IT'S MODEST,
CALM,
AND OUTRAGEOUS.

I DON'T DOUBT THAT YOU...
WILL PROBABLY LIVE LONGER THAN ANYONE ON EARTH.
OR
RATHER, I SHOULD SAY THAT EVERYONE OTHER THAN YOU WILL DIE FIRST.
I WANT TO LIVE A LONG LIFE.
I WANT TO TRY TO LIVE
EVEN ONE TINY FRACTION OF A SECOND LONGER THAN EVEN YOU.
...THAT'S MY ONLY DESIRE.

ﾀﾞｯ

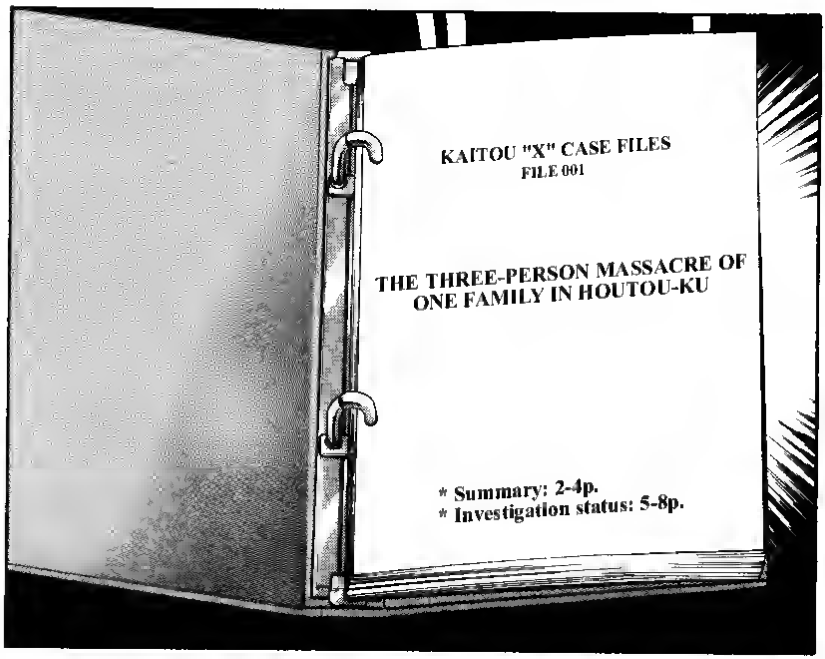
IT'S OKAY...
IT'S OKAY, KASAI.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT ANYTHING.
ぱしゃ

YOU CAN LIVE A LONG LIFE NEXT TO MINE.
AS LONG AS YOU CONTINUE TO SATISFY ME...
HIHIHI.
LIVING A LONG LIFE SURE IS HARD.
THE ACTIVITIES OF MY MOST TRUSTWORTHY FRIEND
I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO IT, KASAI.


...HM?
HUH?
WASN'T IT THIS WAY?
I THINK I GOT LOST.
IT'S BECAUSE THERE WAS A CAFETERIA ALONG THE WAY...
MY SENSE OF DIRECTION GOT COMPLETELY MIXED-UP THERE.

...A RECORDS ROOM?
IT'S IN SUCH A MESS.
I GUESS IT'S BECAUSE THEY'RE TOO BUSY AT A TIME LIKE THIS TO CLEAN UP.

KAITOU "X" CASE FILES
CURRENT REPORTS
FILES 001 - 020
WHY IS THIS OUT HERE RIGHT NOW...
KAITOU "X" CASE FILES ...?


KAITOU "X" CASE FILES
FILE 001
THE THREE-PERSON MASSACRE OF ONE FAMILY IN HOUTOU-KU
* Summary: 2-4p.
* Investigation status: 5-8p.

THE CASE OF SASAZUKA'S FAMILY!!
IT'S...
...I REMEMBER HEARING ABOUT THIS...
KAITOU "X" CASE FILES

TOWARDS THE HEART OF THE TALE...

APRIL 30TH, YEAR XX.
AT A RESIDENCE IN HOUTOU-KU, THE CASE OF A MASSACRE OF THREE FAMILY MEMBERS OCCURRED.
CHAPTER 176 [NUMBER]
THE VICTIMS WERE A MAGAZINE WRITER, SASAZUKA HEIJI
HIS WIFE HIROKO
AND THEIR DAUGHTER, MAMORI.
POLICE
AT SOME POINT, THE BODIES WERE CUT APART...
AND PUT INSIDE WOODEN BOXES.
IT WAS THE FIRST ACKNOWLEDGED CASE OF KAITOU "X".

CHAPTER 176 ■【NUMBER】

...I THOUGHT, COULD IT POSSIBLY BE RELATED TO MR. SASAZUKA'S ABSENCE WITHOUT LEAVE?
...YES.

.....

THIS DOCUMENT ... WAS LEFT LYING AROUND IN THE RECORDS ROOM?
KAITOU "X" CASE FILES
CURRENT REPORTS

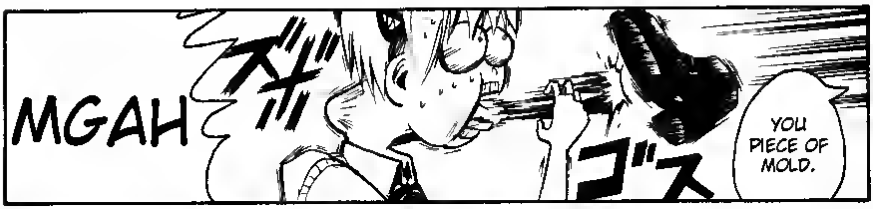
HE GOT AT SOMETHING ABOUT THIS CASE
PROBABLY.
.....
AND SELFISHLY RAN OFF TO INVESTIGATE.
WENT CRAZY AFTER THIS INCIDENT.
MR. SASAZUKA'S LIFE...
ABANDONED THE BRILLIANT FUTURE THAT ACCOMPANIED HIS ABILITIES...
HE LOST HIS FAMILY AND HE, LEFT ALONE
TO SEARCH FOR THE CRIMINAL AS A CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATOR.

I CAN'T EXPLAIN IT, BUT I HAD A HUNCH.
.....
SOMETHING ABOUT HIM HAS BEEN DIFFERENT THAN USUAL.
LATELY...
...BUT MR. USUI, SOMETHING'S STRANGE.
YOU'RE...
CALM, JUST LIKE YOU KNEW MR. SASAZUKA HAD VANISHED.
.....?
YOU DIDN'T NOTICE ANYTHING?
ANYTHING OUT OF PLACE ABOUT HIM?
.....OKAY.
PEOPLE FROM OUTSIDE THE DEPARTMENT SHOULD GO HOME ALREADY.
OF COURSE WE'LL BE LOOKING FOR HIM.
...OH WELL.

……
6F
ゴオオオオ
バサ
バサ
四龍酒家
GOOD GRIEF.
WHAT A LOT OF TROUBLE.

AT LEAST HE ISN'T LOOKING FOR THE REAL CRIMINAL IN THAT CASE.
X WAS ALREADY ABDUCTED BY "SICKS".
AFTER ALL...

I WONDER WHAT SASAZUKA WENT TO LOOK FOR?
BUT...

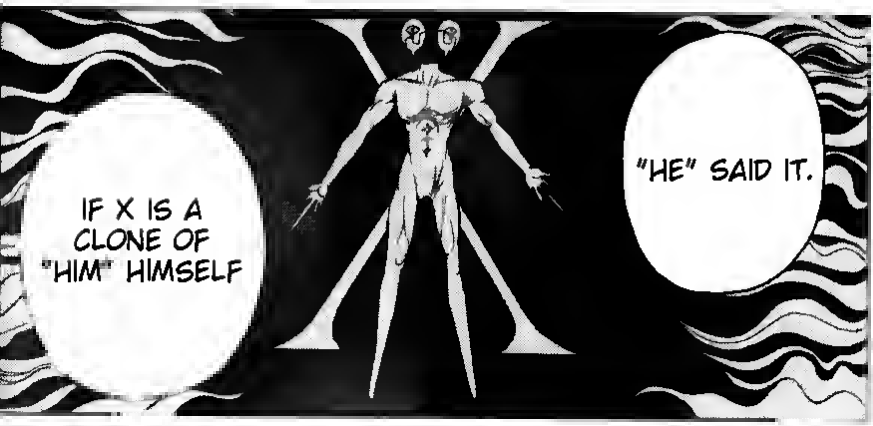

MGAH
ズボ
ゴス
YOU PIECE OF MOLD.

YOU STILL SEE THAT CASE...
AS ONE OF THE "KAITOU 'X' CASES"?

YOU ARE HARDLY THINKING AT ALL.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING !!

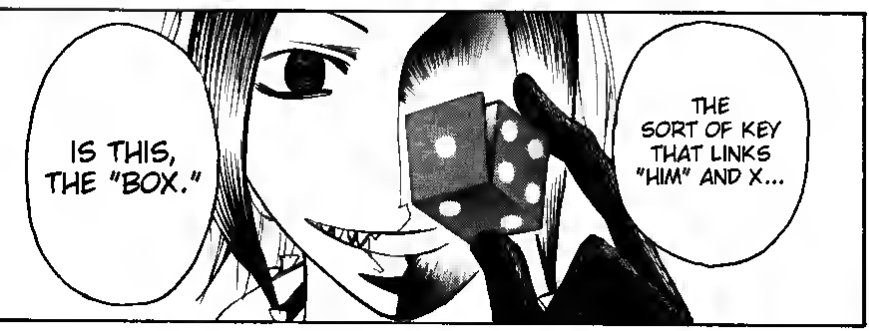
.....
...HUH?
TSUKUSHI AND OTHERS TOO SHOULD HAVE SAID SOMETHING WHEN TALKING ABOUT THE CASE.
IS CLEARLY OF A DIFFERENT NATURE THAN THE OTHER "X" CASES.
ONLY THIS CASE
SEARCHING FOR A "PUZZLE", I PREVIOUSLY STOLE A LOOK AT SASAZUKA'S CASE AS WELL, BUT
ALL THREE "BOXES" ...
OF THE SASAZUKA FAMILY WERE MADE OF WOOD.
IN ADDITION, THEY WERE NAILED SHUT.
LOOK AT FILES.

HE PEERED INTO EVERY CORNER OF THE CORPSES HE PUT INTO GLASS BOXES...
TO TRY TO FIND A CLUE TO HIS OWN PECULIAR BODILY IDENTITY.
X'S MOTIVE FOR MAKING "BOXES" WAS "OBSERVATION."
BUT YOU CAN'T OBSERVE A CORPSE INSIDE A WOODEN BOX.
IN SHORT...
X HAD NO "MOTIVE" TO MAKE THEM.
NO MOTIVE !?
THEN,
IF IT WASN'T X WHO MADE THE BOXES...
OPEN, YAKO.
IN THE LAST FEW MONTHS...
I HAVE COME UP WITH A HYPOTHESIS.


IF X IS A CLONE OF "HIM" HIMSELF
"HE" SAID IT.

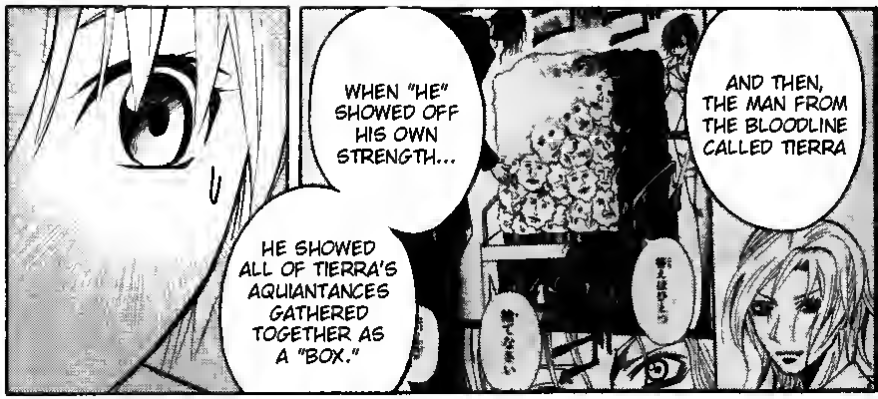
ACTUALLY, X IS VERY SIMILAR TO "HIM."
BY FOREWARNING AND ANNOUNCING HIS CRIMES IS VERY LIKE HIS FATHER.
THE POINT OF SHOWING OFF HIS OWN EXISTENCE...

"HIM" ...?
.....

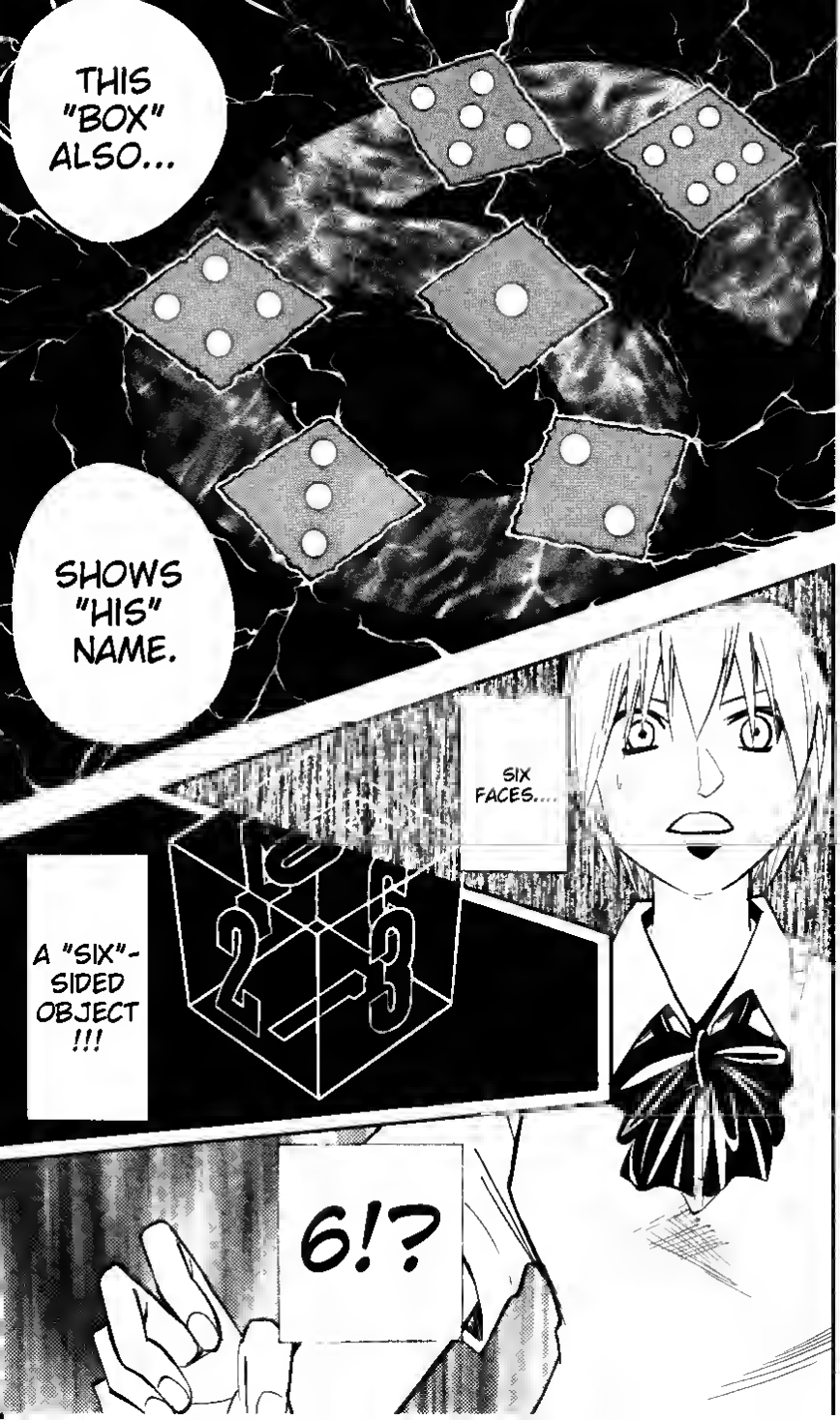

IS THIS, THE "BOX."
THE SORT OF KEY THAT LINKS "HIM" AND X...

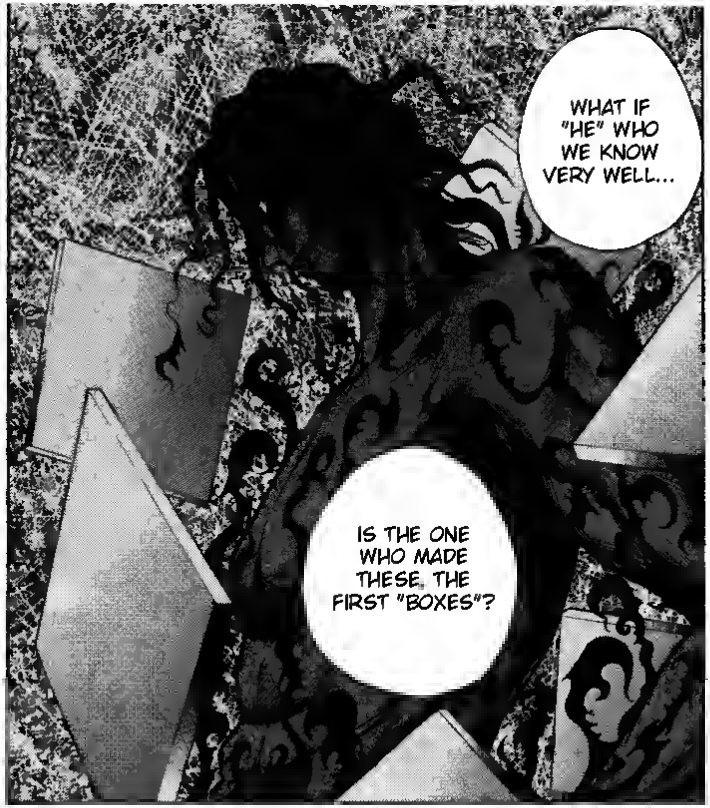
YOU DON'T GET IT?
HE LIKES TO ANNOUNCE HIS CRIMES BY SHOWING HIS OWN NAME WITH A NUMBER.

...THE MEANING OF WHAT YOU'RE SAYING IS


WHEN "HE" SHOWED OFF HIS OWN STRENGTH...
HE SHOWED ALL OF TIERRA'S AQUIANTANCES GATHERED TOGETHER AS A "BOX."
AND THEN, THE MAN FROM THE BLOODLINE CALLED TIERRA

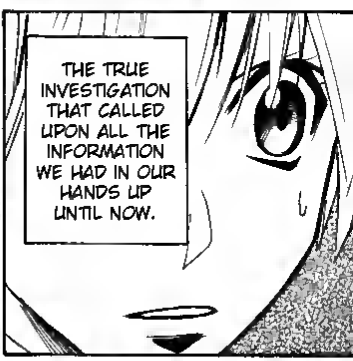
AGAIN...
HAVE YOU NOT NOTICED, YAKO?

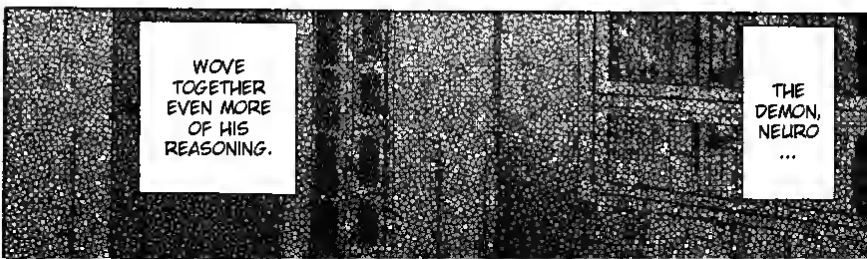

THIS "BOX" ALSO...
SHOWS "HIS" NAME.
SIX FACES....
A "SIX"-SIDED OBJECT !!!
6!?


WHAT IF "HE" WHO WE KNOW VERY WELL...
IS THE ONE WHO MADE THESE, THE FIRST "BOXES"?

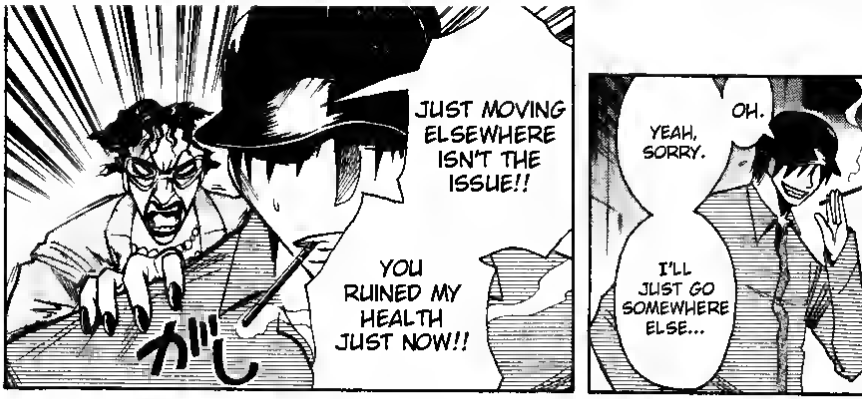
NOW THEN
FOR INSTANCE, HOW ABOUT THIS, YAKO?

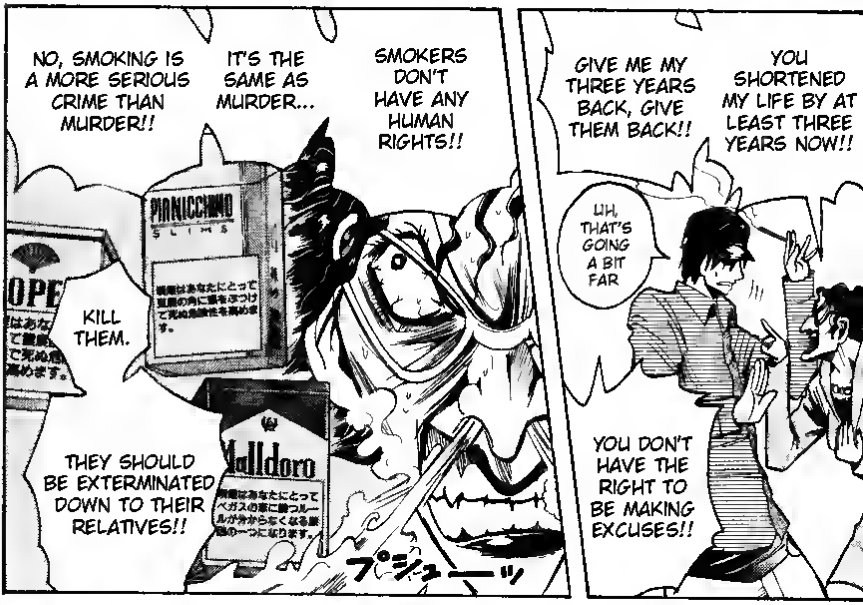
....OF COURSE, THIS IS NOT THE ONLY BASIS FOR IT.
LET US CONTINUE THE DISCUSSION.


THE TRUE INVESTIGATION THAT CALLED UPON ALL THE INFORMATION WE HAD IN OUR HANDS UP UNTIL NOW.


WOVE TOGETHER EVEN MORE OF HIS REASONING.
THE DEMON, NEURO ...

KASAI ZENJI-ROU IS THINK-ING
AGE VERIFICATION CARD NECESSARY
tapos
THIS MACHINE WILL NOT SELL TOBACCO PRODUCTS WITHOUT VERIFICATION
WHAT THE HELL IS THIS.
HUH!?
SINCE THE ONE I'VE GOT IN MY HAND IS THE LAST ONE...
WHEN I THOUGHT I'D TRY HOLDING OUT UNTIL I GOT TO MY HOUSE BY GOING TO A NAME-BRAND VENDING MACHINE
THIS IS THE KINDA THING THAT HAPPENS TO ME?
SIGH...
IT'S A HARD WORLD.
AAA!?
YOU!!
YOU'RE SMOKING A CIGARETTE, AREN'T YOU!?
SMOKING OUTDOORS IS A CRIME!!


JUST MOVING ELSEWHERE ISN'T THE ISSUE!!
YOU RUINED MY HEALTH JUST NOW!!
がし
OH.
YEAH, SORRY.
I'LL JUST GO SOMEWHERE ELSE...


NO, SMOKING IS A MORE SERIOUS CRIME THAN MURDER!!
IT'S THE SAME AS MURDER...
SMOKERS DON'T HAVE ANY HUMAN RIGHTS!!
KILL THEM.
THEY SHOULD BE EXTERMINATED DOWN TO THEIR RELATIVES!!
PANICCHINO
SLIMS
Malldoro
プシューッ
GIVE ME MY THREE YEARS BACK, GIVE THEM BACK!!
YOU SHORTENED MY LIFE BY AT LEAST THREE YEARS NOW!!
UH, THAT'S GOING A BIT FAR
YOU DON'T HAVE THE RIGHT TO BE MAKING EXCUSES!!

HURRY UP!!
HEY, LISTEN
HEY LADY.
POLICE-MAN!!
PLEASE, HURRY AND SHOOT HIM DEAD!!
MY HEALTH WAS MURDERED JUST NOW!!

CALM DOWN, OLD HAG.
ナァ
YOU'RE NOT DEAD.
PEOPLE NEVER DIE JUST THROUGH THAT KIND OF THING.
THAT KIND OF THING'S GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH LIVING A LONG LIFE.
ALONG WITH A SINGLE PLUME OF CIGARETTE SMOKE
YOU'RE SUCKING DOWN AIR FULL OF CAR EXHAUST
AND EATING VEGETABLES COVERED IN PESTICIDE, THAT'S THE WORLD WE'VE BEEN RAISED IN...
AND YOU'RE WELCOMING YOUR OLD AGE IN ACTIVE HEALTH RIGHT NOW.

THAT'S PRETTY COLD. A FULL-GROWN MAN TAKING ON AN OLD LADY, ISN'T IT.

WHAT'RE YOU DOING OLD MAN?

BUT IT SEEMS LIKE YOU'RE NOT JUST ANY OLD GUY.

IF YOU WANT, I'LL BE YOUR OPPONENT.

.....

A SECRET WEAPON, HUH.
THOSE GLOVES OF YOURS.
.....
クン
クン
THE SMELL OF GUN-POWDER.
THERE'S EXPLOSIVE INGREDIENTS IN THE SHELLS ON YOUR GLOVES.
FOUR SPOTS PER FIST, HUH?
WHEN YOU HIT, A PILLAR OF FIRE WILL GOUGE ITS WAY INTO THE FLESH.
ENOUGH PAIN TO MAKE SOMEONE PASS OUT IN AN INSTANT.
SCARY STUFF...
...YOU ASSHOLE.
WHY DO I KNOW THIS?
'CAUSE IT'S MY SPECIALTY.

WHEN YOU WERE BORN INTO THE SAME ERA AS *HIM*...
カッ
YOU GUYS WILL KNOW IT SOON, TOO, I GUESS.

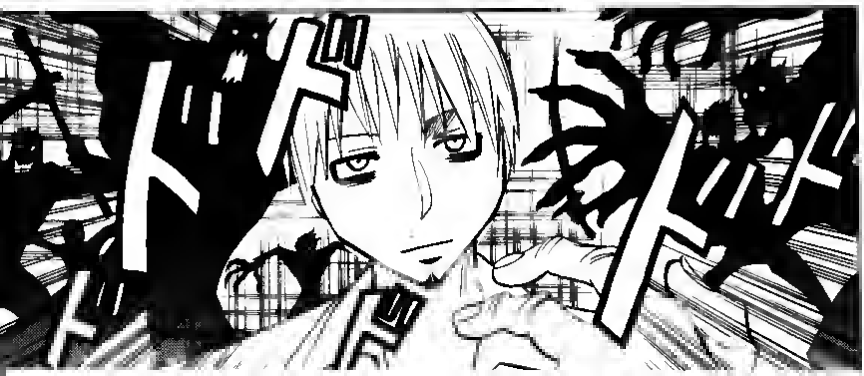
DON'T MEAN SHIT WHEN IT COMES TO LIVING A LONG LIFE.
HEALTH AND ARMAMENTS ...
F"F"...
WELL... GUESS IT'S TIME TO START.
UNCLE KASAI'S GONNA END UP LIVING A LONG TIME.

KASAI'S CIGARETTES

DISCONTINUED BRAND
JI-OKER

STORING THEM AT HIS OWN HOME IN THE FRIDGE (20,000 BOXES LEFT)

SO YOU CAME, SASAZUKA.
CHAPTER 177
紡【SPIN】
THIS TIME IT'LL BE DIFFERENT THAN BACK THEN.
I DON'T HAVE ANY INFORMATION TO GIVE TO A FUCKED-UP BASTARD LIKE YOU.
YOU CARE IF WE KILL HIM?
NAH, GO AHEAD, BOYS.
ガッ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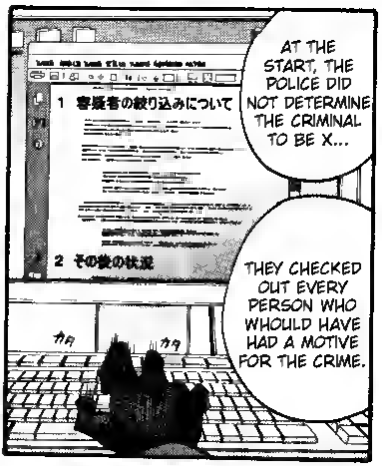
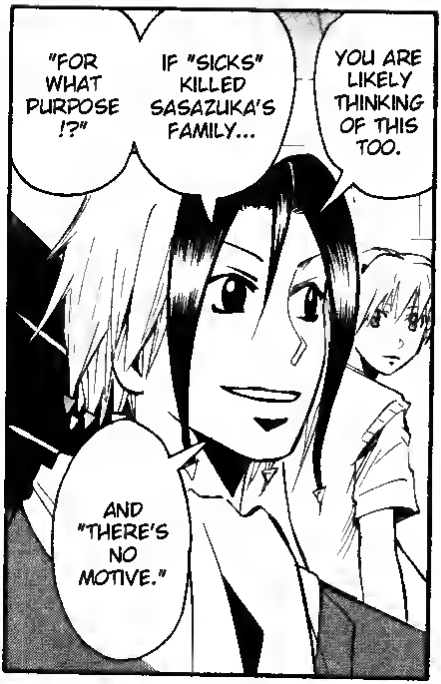
THE INCREASE IN INFORMATION
CHANGES THE CONCLUSION.
CHAPTER 177
紡【 SPIN 】

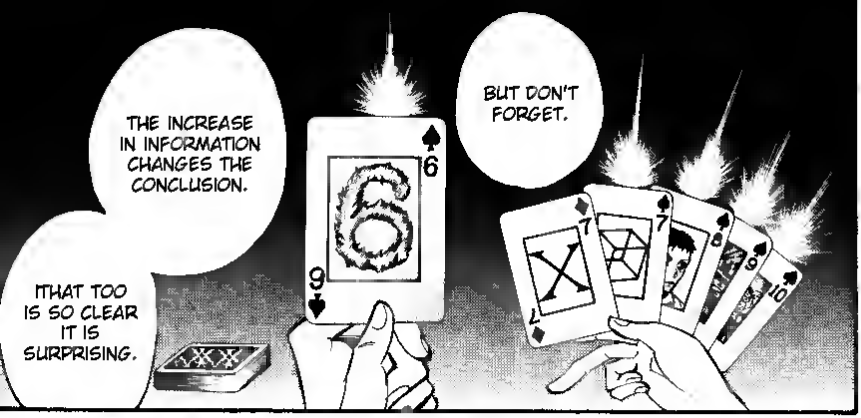
……

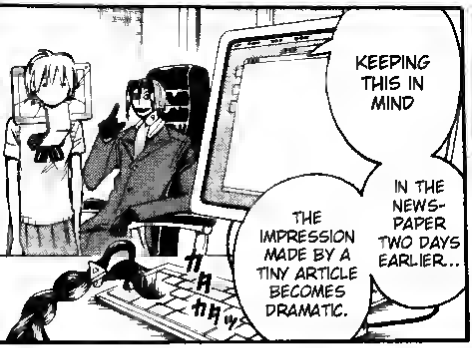

1 容疑者の絞り込みについて
2 その後の状況
AT THE START, THE POLICE DID NOT DETERMINE THE CRIMINAL TO BE X...
THEY CHECKED OUT EVERY PERSON WHO WHOULD HAVE HAD A MOTIVE FOR THE CRIME.

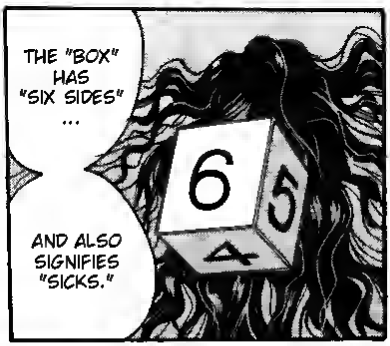

"FOR WHAT PURPOSE !?"
IF "SICKS" KILLED SASAZUKA'S FAMILY...
YOU ARE LIKELY THINKING OF THIS TOO.
AND "THERE'S NO MOTIVE."

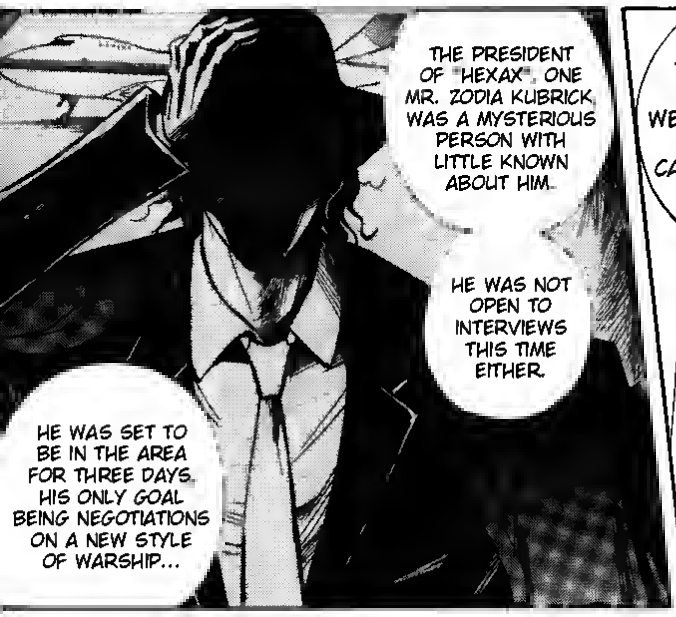
A JOURNALIST.
SASAZUKA'S FATHER WORKED AS A MAGAZINE WRITER...
IN PARTICULAR
THE REASON THEY WERE KILLED IS SIMPLE.
IT IS BECAUSE THEIR JOB IS TO "KNOW TOO MUCH" DANGEROUS INFORMATION.
THERE ARE MORE THAN FOUR HUNDRED JOURNALISTS WHO WERE ASSASSINATED IN THE PAST TEN YEARS.
DID HE "KNOW TOO MUCH" ABOUT SOMETHING?
SASAZUKA HEIJI, THE JOURNALIST...
...BUT THEY SOON CAME TO THE END OF THAT TRAIL.
THE POLICE FOLLOWED THAT LINE OF THOUGHT AT FIRST, TOO.

"THERE WERE SIGNS AT THE SCENE THAT IT HAD BEEN RANSACKED."
ムキュ～
LOOK.
IT IS IN THE REPORT HERE.
SCENE
"IT MAY WELL HAVE BEEN ERASED ALONG WITH THE VICTIM."
"EVEN IF THERE HAD BEEN INFORMATION THAT WAS CONNECTED TO THE VICTIM'S DEATH..."
...A CERTAIN ONE OF THEM.
IT WAS JUST ABOUT SETTLED THAT THE SASAZUKA CASE WAS ALSO ONE OF X'S CRIMES.
FINALLY, RIGHT AFTER THAT...
THE "BOXES" AND "DESTRUCTION OF THE SCENE" AND SO ON.
CASES OF KAITOU "X" WITH THE SAME CHARACTERISTICS OCCURRED.
.....


THE INCREASE IN INFORMATION CHANGES THE CONCLUSION.
BUT DON'T FORGET.
THAT TOO IS SO CLEAR IT IS SURPRISING.


KEEPING THIS IN MIND
IN THE NEWS-PAPER TWO DAYS EARLIER...
THE IMPRESSION MADE BY A TINY ARTICLE BECOMES DRAMATIC.


THE "BOX" HAS "SIX SIDES" ...
AND ALSO SIGNIFIES "SICKS."

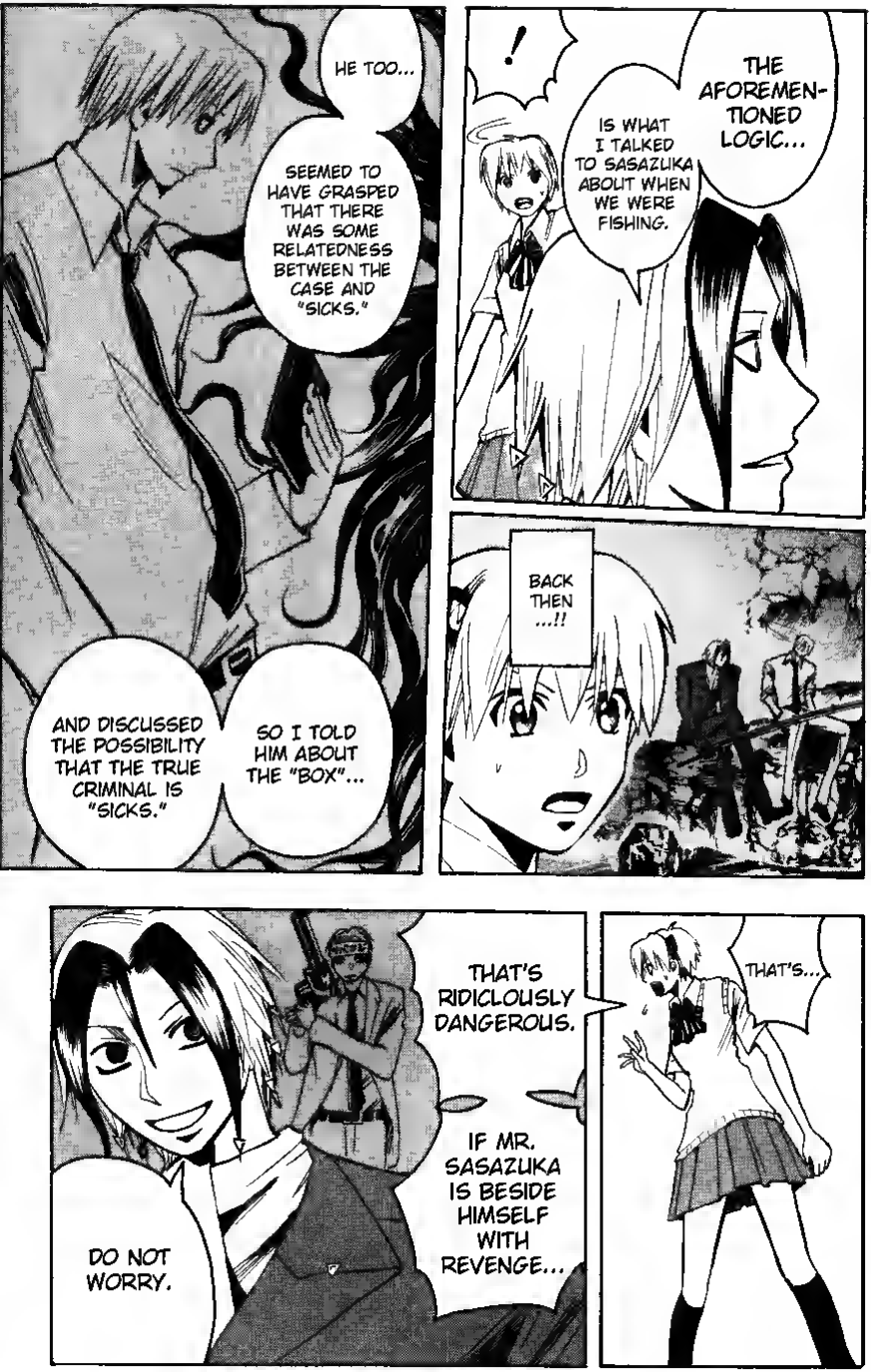

THE PRESIDENT OF "HEXAX", ONE MR. ZODIA KUBRICK, WAS A MYSTERIOUS PERSON WITH LITTLE KNOWN ABOUT HIM.
HE WAS NOT OPEN TO INTERVIEWS THIS TIME EITHER.
HE WAS SET TO BE IN THE AREA FOR THREE DAYS. HIS ONLY GOAL BEING NEGOTIATIONS ON A NEW STYLE OF WARSHIP...

THE HEAD OF THE LEADING WEAPONS MAKER, "HEXAX", CAME TO JAPAN.

SURELY THE CONNECTION HAS OCCURRED TO YOU.
IS THE PARENT COMPANY OF THE BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS DEVELOPMENT FACILITY WE ANNIHILATED PREVIOUS.
THIS COMPANY ...
WEAPONS ...
MAKER ?
IN SHORT
THE MAN LEADING IT IS...!!
...!!
IT IS QUITE REASONABLE TO SEE IT AS THOUGH HE ALREADY HAD EXPERIMENTATION ON HUMANS GOING ON ELSEWHERE.
WHEN HE ENTERED THE COUNTRY TEN YEARS AGO...
THEY COULD NOT HAVE GOTTEN TO THAT LEVEL OF RESEARCH IN THAT FACILITY IN ONLY FIVE YEARS.

WEAPONS DEVELOPMENT INVOLVING HUMAN EXPERIMENTATION LIKE THAT...
IS CRIMINAL AND THEREFORE
THERE IS THE POSSIBILITY THERE WERE TRACES OF THAT FROM THE "BODIES."
FOR EXAMPLE
WHAT IF, WHILE A MERE REPORTER WAS FOLLOWING A MISSING PERSON HE DIDN'T HAVE ENOUGH INFORMATION ON...
HE STUMBLED UPON A TERRIBLE EXPERIMENT?
...AND THEN
IF HE ATTEMPTED TO COVER THE VISIT TO JAPAN OF THE MAN PULLING THE STRINGS?
IF IT WAS "HIM", THAT REPORTER WOULDN'T BE ALLOWED TO GET AWAY.
HE COULD HAVE BEEN ERASED ALONG WITH ALL DOCUMENTATION.
EVERYTHING TIES TOGETHER.

I WAS GUIDED ALONG.
ABOUT THE CASE
AND X
AND THE BLOODLINE OF "SICKS"
THROUGH ALL THAT WE HAD SEEN AND HEARD UNTIL NOW.
BINDING ALL OF THAT TOGETHER ...
TOWARDS NEURO'S SOLE CONCLUSION...!!


HE TOO...
SEEMED TO HAVE GRASPED THAT THERE WAS SOME RELATEDNESS BETWEEN THE CASE AND "SICKS."
SO I TOLD HIM ABOUT THE "BOX"...
AND DISCUSSED THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE TRUE CRIMINAL IS "SICKS."
!
THE AFOREMENTIONED LOGIC...
IS WHAT I TALKED TO SASAZUKA ABOUT WHEN WE WERE FISHING.
BACK THEN ...!!
THAT'S...
THAT'S RIDICLOUSLY DANGEROUS.
IF MR. SASAZUKA IS BESIDE HIMSELF WITH REVENGE...
DO NOT WORRY.

I HAVE SOME BUSINESS WITH "SICKS."
IF WE CAN TAKE HOLD OF THE NEXT PLACE WE WILL BE, HE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO FLEE.

IF ANY ACTION IS TAKEN...
HE TOLD ME THAT HE WOULD CONTACT ME BEFOREHAND.

THAT CALM AND QUIET MAN...
SHOULD UNDERSTAND THAT BETTER THAN ANYONE ELSE.
AM I MISTAKEN?

IF SASAZUKA WAS ALONE, IT WOULD BE RECKLESS, BUT...
IF I AM THERE, OUR CHANCES OF STRIKING HIM DOWN RISE REMARKABLY.

MR. SASAZUKA WILL BE OKAY.
I'M SURE
MR. SASAZUKA, WHAT YOU'RE TWISTING ON YOUR FORK ISN'T PASTA!!
SA-
EVEN WHEN HE ONCE FOUND A FOREIGN OBJECT IN HIS PASTA...
HE'S SO CALM THAT HE'S TOO CALM.
HE WAS CALM.
.....OH.
IT LOOKED SIMILAR, SO IT GOT WOUND UP. ON IT.
I KNOW THAT THE BEST OUT OF ANYONE.
IT'S NOT A MISTAKE TO LEAVE IT UP TO HIS OWN FEELINGS...
WE'VE KNOWN EACH OTHER FOR A LONG TIME, TOO.

EEP...
Y
YOU'RE A MONSTER ...!!
……
シュボッ

THERE ARE A FEW DIFFERENT KINDS OF PEOPLE WHO SMOKE.
GUYS THAT ARE SIMPLY NICOTINE ADDICTS AND
PEOPLE WHO JUST LIKE TO KEEP THEIR MOUTHS BUSY.
ANOTHER KIND IS...
"GUYS WHO HAVE SOMETHING TO HIDE."
THEIR TRUE COLORS MIX WITH THE SMOKE THEY PUFF OUT..
AND SO OTHERS HAVE NO IDEA WHAT THEIR REAL INTENTIONS ARE.
LITERALLY GIVING THEMSELVES A SMOKESCREEN.

ガリ
AS FAR AS THAT KINDA GUY GOES...
HE'LL BE KEEPING A MONSTER UNDERNEATH.
ギギ…
スゥ
I SUPPOSE YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT YOURSELF?
KASAI.
ME!?
DON'T BE SILLY.
PLEASE, TAKE ME TO BE A GOOD-NATURED MIDDLE-AGED GUY WHO'S NOT TWO-FACED LIKE THAT.
シボン
JUST AS YOU SPECIFIED.
HE IS HAVING DINNER AT THIS HOTEL TO OBSERVE THE VIEW.
BUT, TONIGHT IS PEACEFUL, ISN'T IT.
ふぅ

THERE'S A REASON I ASKED A SCANDINAVIAN BEAUTY LIKE YOURSELF TO SIT AT MY TABLE.
BY THE WAY, SHURA.
?
GOOD.
I'M SURE IT'LL SATISFY HIM.
IT'S POPULAR WHEN YOU'VE GOT GOOD SCENERY.
THERE'S SOMETHING I WANTED TO TRY ONCE.
THE TIME'S JUST RIGHT.
3
2
1
LET'S GO.
AND BLOW IT OUT LIKE "IT'S A BIRTHDAY CANDLE".
YOU MATCH THE TIME A TOWER'S LIGHTS GO OUT
I'VE HEARD OF IT.
THAT MAN ROSE AND FELL OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT, FROM MANAGER TO COMPANY PRESIDENT.*
BACK IN THE DAY, WOMEN FELL HEAD OVER HEELS FOR THAT ONE.

TRANSLATOR'S NOTE. UNTRANSLATABLE JOKE REFERENCE TO A SERIES OF MANGA BY HIROGANE KENJI

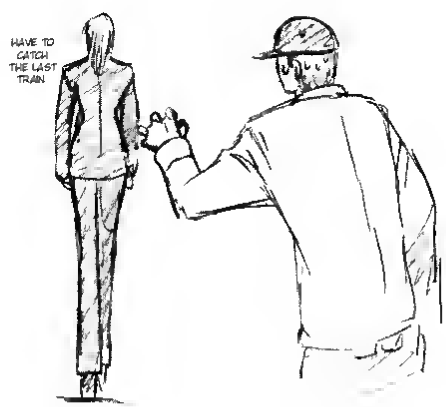
FUU
...IT'S PRETTY.

ゴオオオ
A CANDLE OF DEATH THAT LIGHTS ALL AT ONCE, WITH NO TIME DELAY.
THE TRICK SHOULD MAKE IT TOUGH FOR THE POLICE TO DETERMINE THE ORIGIN OF THE FIRE.
AND THEN THE FLAMES MELT THE SUPPORTS AND THE BUILDING TOPPLES.
THE GOAL OF HAVING THEM FALL IS THE USUAL CEREMONY.
IT'S TO DISPLAY HIS NAME.
BUT UNLIKE D.R., TIERRA AND THE REST, I'M ASIAN.

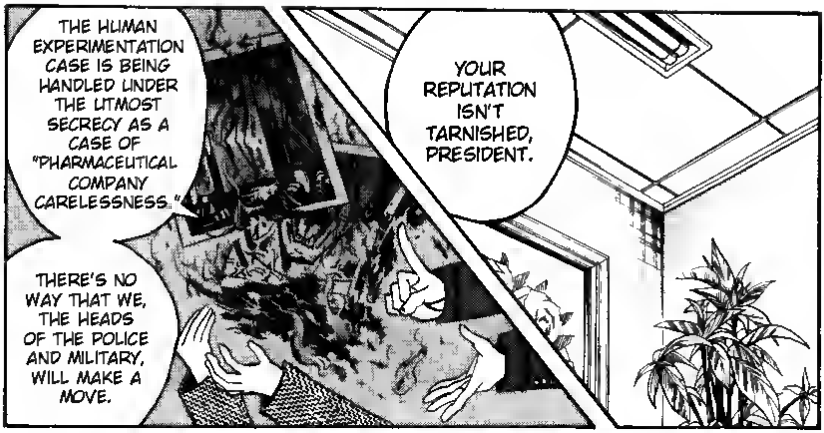
HERE...
IT'S DRAWN IN AN EASTERN STYLE.
THE SCENE OF THE CRIME WON'T BE FULLY UNDERSTOOD BY NEURO UNTIL THE LAST ONE.
BECAUSE MY PRIORITY IS TO KILL HUMANS.
FIRST, I WRITE A "SIX" IN THE MIDDLE OF TOKYO...
AND THEN I BURN MORE, TOPPLE MORE, KILL MORE.

I'LL WRITE HIS NAME
KILL HUMANS
AND KILL NEURO. ...HIHIHI.
INSIDE THE LAST BUILDING LEFT...
THOUGH I'D RATHER NOT, I'LL BE HIS OPPONENT.
I'LL MAKE HIM THOROUGHLY SATISFIED
SO THAT I WILL LIVE.

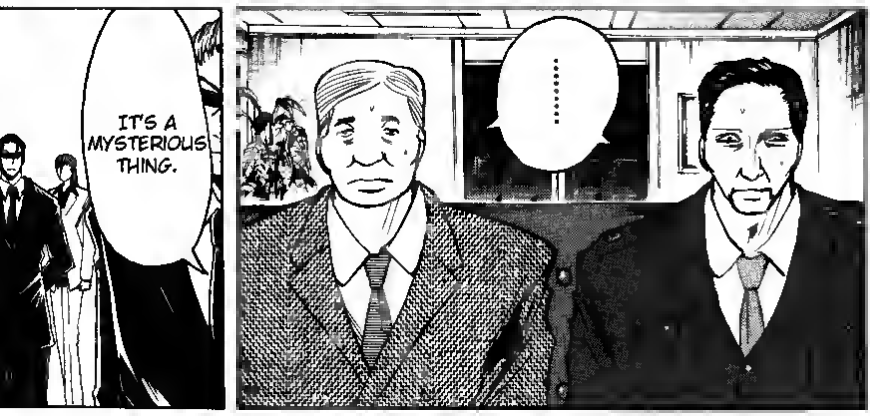
BUT SHE RAN OFF.

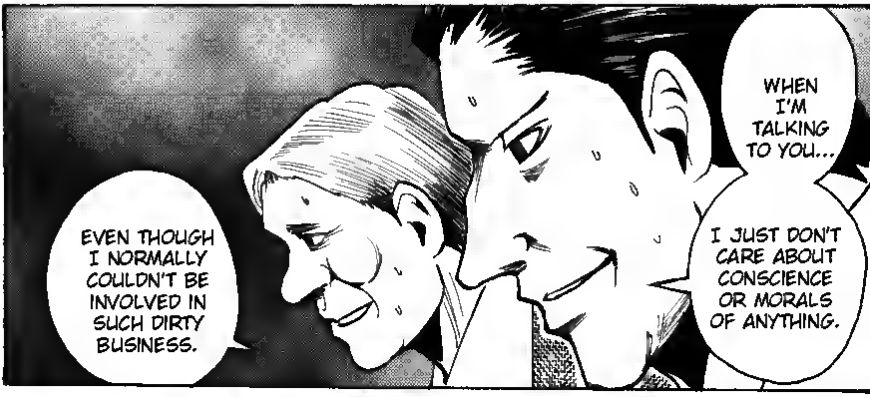


THAT WAS DEPRESSING.


THE HUMAN EXPERIMENTATION CASE IS BEING HANDLED UNDER THE UTMOST SECRECY AS A CASE OF "PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANY CARELESSNESS."
THERE'S NO WAY THAT WE, THE HEADS OF THE POLICE AND MILITARY, WILL MAKE A MOVE.
YOUR REPUTATION ISN'T TARNISHED, PRESIDENT.

CONSIDERING THAT YOU WANT TO PRESERVE YOUR OWN INTERESTS, IT'S THE BEST CHOICE.
GOOD.
CHAPTER 178 変【TURNABOUT】


IT'S A MYSTERIOUS THING.
……


WHEN I'M TALKING TO YOU...
I JUST DON'T CARE ABOUT CONSCIENCE OR MORALS OF ANYTHING.
EVEN THOUGH I NORMALLY COULDN'T BE INVOLVED IN SUCH DIRTY BUSINESS.

IT'S OKAY...
CHAPTER 178 変【TURNABOUT】
YOU CAN LET YOURSELVES GET DIRTIER

IT'S JUST A LITTLE BIT OF EXTRA WORK.
IT DOESN'T SEEM TO BE ANY PROBLEM TO KEEP THEIR MOUTHS SHUT, DOES IT?
WE'VE RESERVED A PLACE AWAY FROM THEM.
AS IT SEEMS THE MASS MEDIA HAVE BEEN LOUD IN A NUMBER OF WAYS LATELY
...HOW COWARDLY.
IT'S BEEN PLANNED TO TAKE PLACE AT A LOCATION AWAY FROM THE PUBLIC GAZE.
NOW, THERE'S THE TOP-SECRET NEGOTIATIONS WITH MISAKI HEAVY INDUSTRIES, BUT
YOU MIGHT AS WELL JUST DO IT LIKE KASAI.
IF YOU'RE GOING TO BE COWARDS ANYWAY...

THERE WAS NO ADVANCE WARNING.
PERHAPS IT MAY HAPPEN AGAIN LATER, TOO.
PLANNING TO "RUN" AROUND THE ENEMY THIS TIME.
STEADILY DECREASEING THE NUMBER OF HUMANS
IS IT A STRATEGY TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF MY HASTE?
FROM ONE TO THE NEXT ...!!
...SHIT!!

BUT FROM THE COLLECTIVE MOUTHS OF THE WITNESSES...
THEY SAID THE WHOLE BUILDING WENT UP AT ONCE.
WE CAN'T FIGURE OUT HIS METHOD.
NORMAL FIRE BURNS PROGRESSIVELY FROM ITS POINT OF ORIGIN.
.....
USING FIRE LIKE A MAGIC TRICK...
THIS IS EXACTLY LIKE...
YOU GOT A LOTTA NERVE, LITTLE BOYS!!
IF YOU WANNA DIE WITH THE GREAT KASAI, BRING IT ON!!

ALL OF THE POLICE HAVE THEIR PRIDE AT STAKE...
WE HAVE TO MAKE THIS SORT OF THING END TODAY, NO MATTER WHAT.
TSUKUSHI.
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHO THE CRIMINAL MAY BE.
IN THAT CASE, ALLOW ME TO HUMBLY GIVE YOU SENSEI'S REASONING ON THE MATTER...
PERHAPS ...
THE KEY TO IT IS UNDER-GROUND.
.....
IS THAT WHAT THAT MONSTER HAS FIGURED OUT?
THE MURDERER OF SASAZUKA'S FAMILY = "THEIR" LEADER.
...OH, REALLY.

WHAT DO YOU THINK, AFTER HEARING ABOUT THAT?
SO
...YEAH.
SURE.
HE REALLY CONVINCED ME.
OLD INGREDIENTS AND NEW INGREDIENTS.
WHEN THEY'RE MIXED TOGETHER, THE ANSWER BECOMES ENTIRELY DIFFERENT
THAT'S NOT WHAT I ASKED.

UH.
IT'S OKAY.
MR. SASAZUKA IS ALWAYS SUCH A CALM PERSON.
IF SOMETHING HAPPENS, HE'LL CONTACT NEURO...
WAIT, I GOT A CALL
RRRR

WHAT I'M ASKING IS
YOU DON'T THINK THAT COP HEARD ABOUT THAT AND WENT OFF TO TAKE SOME KIND OF RISKY ACTIONS?

I, I, I CAN'T FUCKING BELIEVE IT, GODAI!!
... WHAT.
CALM DOWN AND TALK.

HEY, RYUUICHI?
IT'S BEEN A WHILE.
I OWE YOU ONE FOR THAT CASE WITH THE PERVERTED OLD GUY.
RYUUICHI

THAT BASTARD, SASAZUKA!!
HE BEAT THE SHIT OUT OF ALL MY GUYS AND STOLE INFORMATION FROM ME!!
IF HE'S AFTER YOU...
THERE ISN'T ANYBODY THAT CAN SAVE YOU!!!
HE'S THE SAME AS HE WAS TEN YEARS AGO...
IT WAS HORRIBLE
NO, HE'S WORSE.
...YEAH, AND THEN?
...SURE.
TELL IT TO ME FROM THE BEGINNING.
CALM DOWN.
...?
...GOTCHA.
SEEYA SOON.

AS GOOD AS YOU ARE, YOU'RE STILL JUST SOME BRAT!!
ABOUT THAT BASTARD!!
YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING!!
!!
LET'S GO.
MR. GODAI, YOU'RE HURT...
I'M FINE, COME ON!!

MR. MISAKI.
ARE YOU HERE?
...MR. MISAKI.

HAVE YOU BEEN CONTACTED BY PRESIDENT MISAKI?
...NOT LONG AGO, FROM THE MAN HIMSELF.
IT'S DEFINITELY THE RIGHT PLACE FOR A SECRET CONVERSATION.
A BUILDING THAT WAS ABANDONED MID-CONSTRUCTION DUE TO LACK OF FUNDS, HUH...
...STRANGE
NOBODY'S COME TO MEET US.
THEY'RE IN THIS BUILDING ...
I DON'T THINK THERE'S ANY DOUBT ABOUT THAT.
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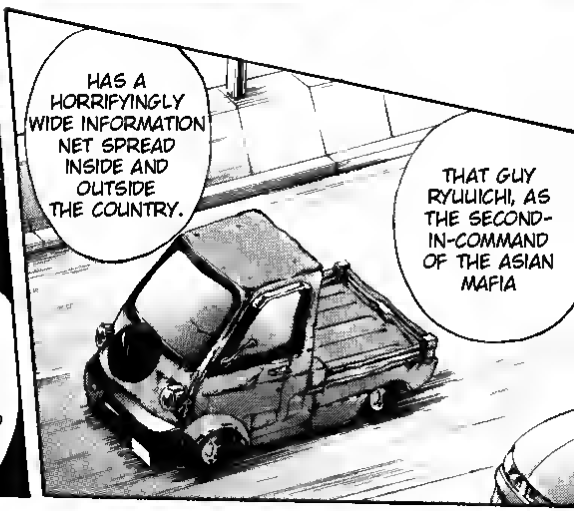
カチッ

...OHO.

ドリャーシャカッ

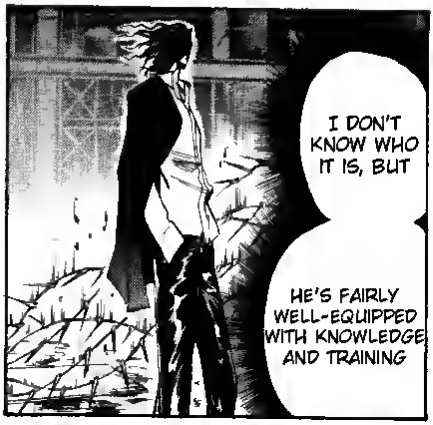
TEN YEARS AGO, HE WAS A FAMOUS PERSON IN UNDERGROUND SOCIETY.

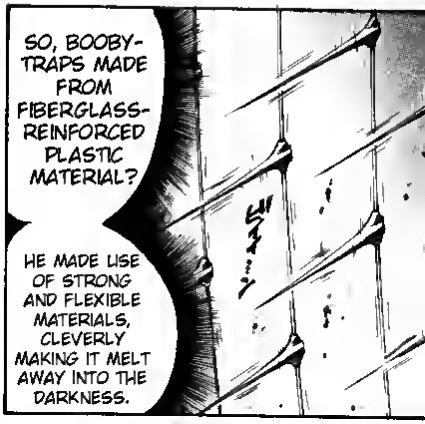

HAS A HORRIFYINGLY WIDE INFORMATION NET SPREAD INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY.
THAT GUY RYUUICHI, AS THE SECOND-IN-COMMAND OF THE ASIAN MAFIA

I HEARD ...
THAT COP CAME THERE TO BUY SOME INFORMATION.
HE WANTED TO INVESTIGATE *THAT CASE.*
TO HIM, IT MIGHT'VE BEEN A CLIENT'S FINAL WISH, BUT...
RYUUICHI DOESN'T CARE TO LISTEN TO THE WISHES OF THOSE WHO ARE OUT FOR REVENGE.
WHEN HE HIT HIM FIVE OR SIX TIMES AND KICKED HIM OUT...
I HEARD HE WAS HELD UPSIDE-DOWN FROM THE 25TH FLOOR.

THERE ISN'T ANYBODY WHO CAN'T SUDDENLY TURN AROUND ON YOU, INVESTIGATOR.
SEEN THAT MORE THAN ANYONE IN YOUR JOB.
YOU'VE PROBABLY..
!!
HE WASN'T EVEN AN OFFICER AT THE TIME, JUST A UNIVERSITY STUDENT.
WHEN SOMETHING IF FOR THE SAKE OF HIS GOAL, HE TURNS INTO A MONSTER, IN BODY AND SOUL.
THE MONSTER IS ONLY JUST BARELY UNDERNEATH.
HIS CASE IS DIFFERENT THAN YOUR OR MINE...

AH
THAT TIME
IN GODAI'S HOSPITAL ROOM!!
ポン
ケガだけはすんなよ弥生ちゃん
HAS ANYTHING SEEMED OFF ABOUT SASAZUKA LATELY?
HOW... COULD I HAVE OVERLOOKED IT!!
MR. SASAZUKA'S TURNABOUT .....
WAS EVEN MORE DRASTIC THAN THAT OF ANY CRIMINAL!!


I DON'T KNOW WHO IT IS, BUT
HE'S FAIRLY WELL-EQUIPPED WITH KNOWLEDGE AND TRAINING


SO, BOOBY-TRAPS MADE FROM FIBERGLASS-REINFORCED PLASTIC MATERIAL?
HE MADE USE OF STRONG AND FLEXIBLE MATERIALS, CLEVERLY MAKING IT MELT AWAY INTO THE DARKNESS.

AT THAT TIME, MR. SASAZUKA WAS...
O RECKLESS ONE.
TRYING TO KILL ME, ARE YOU?

...
SMILING!!
I KNOW WHERE HE IS.
...QUICK.

JUMP COMICS

松井優征

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魔人探偵

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